

L E T T E R S

O F

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LADY JANE DOUGLAS.

[PRICE THREE SHILLINGS.]

A

Entered in Stationers Hall, agreeable
to Act of Parliament.

L E T T E R S
O F
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LADY JANE DOUGLAS;
W I T H
Several other IMPORTANT PIECES
O F
PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM ALL WHICH
The CHARACTERS of
That CELEBRATED LADY,
AND OF
Her HUSBAND Sir JOHN STEWART,

WILL APPEAR IN A LIGHT
Hitherto not sufficiently known to the WORLD.
The WHOLE drawn from the most AUTHENTIC SOURCES,
collected, arranged, and illustrated with NOTES.

TOGETHER WITH
An INTRODUCTORY PREFACE,
Giving some Account of Lady JANE DOUGLAS;
Partly taken from a CASE drawn up by
ALEXANDER LOCKHART Esquire,
DEAN of the Faculty of ADVOCATES.

To which are subjoined,
THE DYING DECLARATIONS
Of Lady JANE DOUGLAS, Sir JOHN STEWART, and their
Attendant Mrs. HELEN HEWIT,

Which have been much insisted on in Behalf of
ARCHIBALD DOUGLAS Esq.

With a COOL and CANDID INQUIRY how far such Decla-
rations should weigh with the rational Part of Mankind.

This is a Jury Cause, where every body will judge for themselves, and
also judge those who judge it.

Lord ALEMORE's Speech on the Douglas Cause.

The Characters of Parties concerned must in such an Evidence as this
have some Weight.

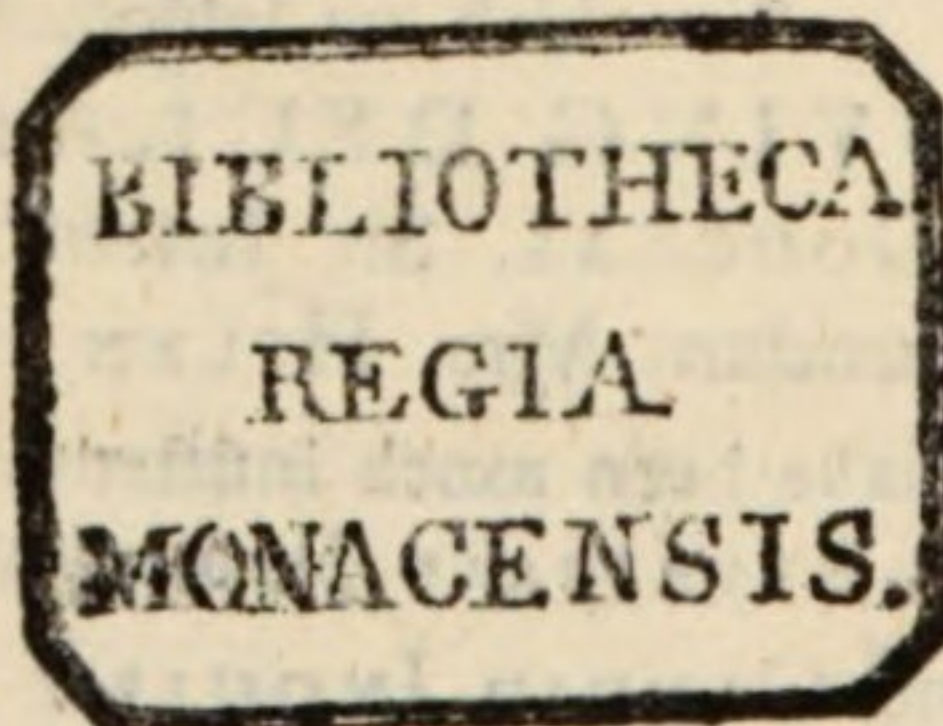
Lord HALE's Speech on the Douglas Cause.

L O N D O N :
Printed for J. WILKIE, in St. Paul's Church-yard.
MDCCLXVII.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Editors of the following very valuable collection having been at great pains in preparing it for the Publick, they hope no Bookseller, particularly none of *the trade* in Scotland, will reprint it without licence. Much of the Preface and the Notes, and all the Inquiry, are undoubted PROPERTY.

The Editors have arranged the whole of this collection as LETTERS, though some of the pieces are only *Extracts*. They have also taken the liberty to correct the orthography.



L O N D O N
Printed for J. Walker, in St. Paul's Church-yard.
M D C C L X

INTRODUCTORY PREFACE,

GIVING SOME ACCOUNT OF

Lady JANE DOUGLAS;

Partly taken from a CASE drawn up by
ALEXANDER LOCKHART Esquire, DEAN
of the Faculty of ADVOCATES.

LADY JANE DOUGLAS, Sister to Archibald Duke of Douglas, lately deceased, was born the 17th March 1698; and appears to have been possessed of many singular and extraordinary qualities; her figure and deportment noble, worthy of that race from which she was sprung; of strong natural parts, improved by education; of an insinuating address, and engaging manners.

Upon the 4th of August 1746, Lady Jane was privately married to John Stewart, Esq; commonly called Colonel John Stewart, from his having been long in the Swedish service. This gentleman afterwards became Sir John Stewart of Grandtully.

As the Duke of Douglas had a prejudice against Mr. Stewart, Lady Jane went abroad, and concealed her marriage, till, having declared herself pregnant, she wrote to the Duke, hoping to bring about a reconciliation.

It is alledged, that an event so desirable would have been brought about, had not some adherents of the family of Hamilton poisoned the ear of the Duke of Douglas with suspicions against the honour of his sister.

With what justice this is alledged the world is left to determine.

Lady Jane next gave out that she was delivered at Paris of two sons. With these she and her husband returned to Britain; but

but so hard was their fate, (supposing them innocent) that the Duke of Douglas rejected his nephews as supposititious children, and would not even see Lady Jane and them, when they presented themselves at the gate of his castle.

What rendered the situation of this Lady most extraordinary, was, that, notwithstanding all the reports to her disadvantage, the noblest in the nation regarded her to the last, and even Majesty itself bestowed upon her what a brother denied.

As perhaps there never was (even in romance) a more affecting story, the world will no doubt be anxious to know it intimately ; towards which the following letters will contribute more than volumes of proofs and memorials.

It is proper to mention, that such was Mr. Stewart's want of oeconomy, that he was for some time within the rules of the King's Bench prison, during which period many of the following letters were written.

They were never intended for publick view, having been discovered in a most providential manner.

Lady Jane Douglas died on the 22d of November, 1753.

The Duke of Douglas having, after Lady Jane's death, married the present Duchess dowager, that Lady, with a noble and disinterested zeal, undeceived his Grace, who settled his princely estate on Lady Jane's eldest and only surviving son, Archibald Douglas, Esq;

A suit having been raised to prove this young gentleman a supposititious child, it has been given against him in the court of session in Scotland, by the casting vote of the Lord President. The final judgment of the supreme court of Great Britain is expected with anxiety.

L E T T E R S
O F
Lady JANE DOUGLAS.

L E T T E R I.

*From Lady JANE DOUGLAS to
Mrs. CARSE*.*

Hague, 18th Oct. N. S. 1746.

MY DEAR MADAM,

I Received the favour of your obliging letter two posts ago, which I do assure you was mighty acceptable; and the oftener you write, it will be so much the more so. You say my leaving Scotland has cast a gloom upon your spirits. Pray throw it off. Though so kind a demonstration of your concern and friendship; yet it gives me pain to imagine you should suffer any the smallest uneasiness on the account of

* Her maiden name was Jane Douglas, a relation of the noble family.

any step of mine, which I would not have made, had not my health, or rather lowness of spirits, required it, which I'm hopeful I shall speedily get the better of, so that my stay abroad shall not be extremely long, and then I please myself with the thoughts of having a happy and an agreeable meeting with my friends, and particularly with you, my dear Madam. And as to my situation at present, it is as follows. On my arrival in this place, I made application to Mr. Trever, the English resident here, *for a pass* to take me to the waters of Bourbon, being informed since I came here, that there is no going to Aix-la-Chapelle, (where I was determined to go), because of the constant robberies committed by the troopers in that quarter; and I was the more easily diverted from pursuing my first intention of going to Aix, since it is now in a manner the seat of war, from which sad scene I am but lately come from, and was too long too nigh a neighbour and spectator. Mr. Trever mightily obligingly took in hand to get me a pass, and wrote to Mr. Van Hoey, the Dutch ambassador at Paris, for that purpose. But so goes the stream of politics at present, that instead of getting one, which he thought there could be no mighty difficulty in obtaining, he received a polite courteous letter from Mr. Van Hoey, with
an

an apology of regret, that the situation of affairs were such, that no pass could be allowed to any of the English to go into France ; which extremely surpris'd Mr. Trever, who imagined, that *ladies* might pass freely at any juncture any where ; and for my own part, I confess frankly, that though I am somewhat mortified to find unexpected accidents arise to prevent my little scheme for health's taking place ; yet my vanity, in considering that the trifling movements of *ladies* is believed by two great and wise courts of so extraordinary import, that I believe my health shall be better established by so flattering an idea, than it could be by any other medicine, or by the use of the finest waters in the world, particularly my illness being mostly lowness of spirits. What heightened them, must prove an effectual cure. But to be more serious, I reckon I shall not, for all the mighty notice that is taken of the *motions of the fair*, stay a great many days longer here. Having met very luckily with Mr. Keith*, late secretary to Lord Stair, now to Lord Sandwich, at present at Breda, af-

* Robert Keith, Esquire, a descendant of the illustrious family of Marischal, long his Britannick Majesty's ambassador at the court of Russia, now living in an honourable retreat near Edinburgh.

fairs sometimes calls Mr. Keith to the Hague, and last Wednesday I had the favour of his company at dinner, and by his means I imagine a pass may be obtained. Mr. Keith is really a mighty pretty gentleman, makes a good figure in the employment he is in, and promises very fair for further advancements, which I truly think he deserves. I am extremely concerned to hear Mr. Carse is afflicted with low spirits. I sympathise with him in that distress, and wishes that cou'd relieve him. And Madam Hewit is in tribulation about him: she says she never thought she liked him so well as now she hears he is ill: she begs you both to accept of her compliments and best wishes. Keir my landlord's behaviour has shocked me a good deal; and the more, that I could easily have prevented any impertinent demonstration, had I not had a better opinion of him than it seems he deserved; but my greatest uneasiness for his late proceedings is, that I had allotted Drumsh. for an easy and agreeable dwelling for Peggy Ker, who I always had, and always shall have, a particular liking and friendship for. I need not bid you, dear Madam, shew kindness and friendship to her, since I know you like her, and since you know it will be doing the kind obliging thing to me. From time to time I shall have the pleasure to write to you, and
even

even longer letters, tho' this is none of the shortest. I offer my best and most affectionate compliments to dear Mr. Carse, to Mr. and Mrs. Robison, and to Mrs. Burnet. I don't deserve the mighty compliments Mrs. Robison makes me. The one she makes the other lady, the fair, the young, the beautiful, delightful creature, is a very just one. I hear she is in pretty good health at present, which will please her, as it always does me, to have an opportunity of assuring you, my dear Madam, that I truly am, with great esteem and affection, your most humble servant,

JANE DOUGLAS.

L E T T E R II.

From Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mrs.
CARSE.

Utrecht, 10th Feb. 1747. N. S.

MY DEAR MADAM,

I Received your two large letters just before the great frost began here. They were extremely acceptable; and I count it a piece of my good fortune that they came at that time: for immediately after, it froze so hard that no packet-boat could arrive for several weeks; which may assure you I could not answer your letter so soon as you might have reasonably expected; and which I certainly would have done, had not that circumstance prevented it. It is what always happens in these parts about the new year; but such an excessive cold I never felt before: the year forty was warm in comparison; yet I catch no cold, I thank God; which was extraordinary enough, considering the rigorous season. This place stands high, and is very wholesome, which made me chuse it till the season for Aix return. I left the Hague only because it was damp; and not without a good deal of regret, having got several acquaintances, and some amongst the Dutch, I found mighty well-bred

bred agreeable people. I have been as lucky since I came here in meeting with a great many Scots and English gentlemen. They are indeed chiefly of the younger sort, who chuse this place for their education; but they have so great a share of good sense, and so much wit, they render themselves acceptable to much older people. Amongst the rest, young Lord Blantyre deserves justly the greatest praise. But I am not capable of drawing characters well; the want of which talent I mightily regret, since it deprives me of the pleasure of doing justice to the most promising young gentleman ever I saw in my life; yet in my plain awkward way I shall tell you some of his qualifications: He has extreme good sense, the best scholar, the greatest application, a vast pleasure in reading, and best taste of books; is free of all manner of vice; and has the sweetest temper in the world; and in all appearance will be a very great honour to his country. I sometimes wish his mother, my old acquaintance Lady Blantyre, had the satisfaction to know how much her son has profited by being abroad, and what an accomplished young man he really is; but I immediately check myself for it, since it is certainly better that she hears nothing of it; for the half of what he deserves could not be told her, without

without her becoming too vain. I could also say a great many advantageous things of Mr. Hay and Mr. Dalrymple, who have a great deal of merit, excellent good sense, mighty good scholars, and are both equally free of all vice with the other. But if I go on at this rate you'll grow afraid that I intend to draw the pictures of all the gentlemen in Utrecht: so shall have done with characteristics, only I must add, that Mr. Dalrymple*, your neighbour Sir James's son, has employed his time well, and has acquired much learning of all kinds.

I am, dear Madam,

Your most humble servant,

JANE DOUGLAS.

* Now Sir David Dalrymple, judge in the court of session, by the title of Lord Hailes. My Lady little thought, at this time, that Mr. Dalrymple should one day sit in judgment upon her.

L E T T E R III.

From Lady JANE to her Brother the
D U K E.

DEAR BROTHER, Rheims, 7th Aug. 1748.

THOUGH not a little discouraged by your favouring me with no answer to that under cover of Lord Crawford's, acquainting your Grace with my change of state, and in whose favours, I think it my incumbent duty, as well as natural inclination, to acquaint you further with the happy consequences of it, which I am hopeful may be a means to replace me, in some measure, to the share of your favour I was once happy in, and never willingly forfeited; but to the contrair have regretted my ill fortune in that particular more than all the others of my more than ordinary cross fate. If want of title and estate in the gentleman I have chosen seems surprising, your Grace well knows no subject could add to me; and a gentleman as well born as any, can take nothing off. Please know then, my Lord, that the 10th of last month I was blessed with * boys,

* A blot on the paper which cannot be read. It means *two*.

C

one

one a promising child ; the other, poor thing, so weak, that I fear is little to be reckoned on ; God's will be done : the other my hopes centre in, and want but the pleasure of your approving his having your name, with that of SHOLTO to the younger, to be happy : for, thank God, I have philosophy enough not to place happiness on superfluous riches or pomp, and faith enough to hope they nor I shall never want a decent competency.

Though I have recovered health beyond expectation, I cannot make this letter so long as I incline, having many things to say ; but am able to add no more, but that Mr. Stewart begs allowance of your Grace, to offer his humble duty in this, and that of being permitted to do himself that honour more amply by a letter, if favoured by your Grace with an opportunity ; and that I am ever, with the sincerest and most respectful regard,

Dear Brother,

Your most obedient servant, and

Most affectionate sister,

JANE DOUGLAS.

Reims en Champagne,
7th Aug. N. S. 1748.

L E T T E R IV.

*The Earl of CRAWFURD to the Duke of
DOUGLAS.*

MY DEAR DUKE,

HAVING had the honour in my younger days to be favoured with your Grace's friendship, which I have ever since flattered myself you have continued me, as I am conscious no relation of your Grace's family wishes it better, or prides himself more in the connexion they have with it; and as it has providentially been my fate to pass these six last months confined to a place, where the irretrievable misfortunes it has pleased the Almighty to afflict me with, could only be rendered supportable to me by the most agreeable society of so deserving people as that of your sister Lady Jane and Mr. Stewart; and as, during the space of time we have been together, I have, from a regard I have for your Grace's family I cannot conceal, so far merited my Lady Jane's confidence, as to be intrusted with the alteration there has happened in her state of life, as also the notifying of it to your Grace, by the inclosed, a service that the same regard I have mentioned

tioned I ever shall have for your family, has even prompted me to offer, on so important an occasion, recommending, with the greatest earnestness, all its consequences to your Grace's most mature deliberation; I say, as my undertaking proceeds from the most warm affection to your Grace's family, I'm hopeful, my representations will not only meet with forgiveness, but with also their wish'd-for success, in reconciling your Grace to an event, all the well-wishers of your Grace's family may have the greatest reason to rejoice at, as there is such visible hopes of its being attended with the natural consequences so much longed for, by all who are fond of seeing the family of Douglas multiply; and since I have thus far ventured upon my dear Duke's goodness, he must forgive me if I proceed a little further, and represent, that a sister tenderly fond of your Grace as she is, and in the situation my Lady Jane is in at present, a favourable answer from your Grace is more necessary than may be at first, perhaps, adverted to: wherefore, allow me once more to intreat you will neither by silence nor indifference hazard the bad consequences that may follow either the one or the other. I can assure your Grace she does great honour to her family wherever she appears, and is respected and beloved by all
that

that have the honour of her acquaintance. She certainly merits all the affectionate marks of an only brother to an only sister: much, much does she wish, as well as others of your Grace's devoted friends, there had been no so great necessity for her changing her way of life; but since it has become so absolutely necessary, with the greatest submission, considering the variety of different circumstances, I would gladly hope your Grace will not disapprove of the person Lady Jane has chose, as to be sure there is none more deserving.——But, I'm afraid, I shall incroach too long on your Grace's patience, so I shall only add, that your Grace's rendering Lady Jane satisfied and happy, by a reconciliation, and such other marks of your brotherly affection as shall seem proper, shall ever render me unalterably,

Your Grace's

Most devoted relation, friend,

and humble servant,

CRAWFURD.

P. S. As your Grace may, perhaps, incline to know how things are likely to turn out here, I shall venture to add, that I'm
afraid,

afraid, the enemy will have made too great progress in the siege of Maestricht, before we, by the junction of all our troops and recruits, become formidable enough to interrupt their progress in their attempt upon Maestricht ; but, I hope, we shall be able to frustrate all their other designs, and, perhaps, to thrash them before the end of the campaign.

L E T T E R V.

*From Lord CRAWFURD to Colonel
STEWART at Rheims.*

DEAR JOHN, London, 12th Aug. 1748, O. S.

I HAD the pleasure of yours, just as my wound broke out again. I have been so distressed ever since, that it has not been in my power to answer you, notwithstanding, I hope both you and my Lady Jane will do me the justice to believe it is impossible to congratulate you with more sincerity than I do, on my Lady Jane's safe delivery of my two young relations. It is more than probable the same Almighty Providence, who seems to have decreed their coming into the world, intends also to reserve them, or theirs, for his great ends. Almighty God preserve them, and their valuable parents, to rear them up in this selfish world.

I was lucky enough to receive your letter soon enough before I fell ill, so as to recommend my Lady Jane's affairs to the Duke of Argyll's care. He promised me he would talk to my Lord Milton, in relation to bringing the Duke of Douglas to a way of thinking of the affair, as he ought to be. I also wrote
to

to the Duke of Douglas a second letter, though I had no answer to my first, intimating to him my Lady Jane's safe delivery, thundering in his ears his family's cause, and trying to rouse up all that is Douglas in him ; I wish it may have the desired effect. I have also engaged my Lord Home, who is gone down to Lord Mark Kerr's, to reconcile him, and I intend to go myself as soon as I am well, in order to talk to him for some supplies for Lady Jane, which, I make no doubt, must soon become necessary. I have also spoke to the Master of Ross, son of the Lord Ross, who is lately come over from Prussia, and who is gone down to Scotland to see his father, to talk with his father and the Marquis of Lothian, to take the proper steps with the Duke of Douglas, to induce him to act by Lady Jane as he ought to do. The young gentleman undertook the thing very willingly, and, I believe, will do all that lies in his power to do you service. You shall soon hear from me again, particularly, after I have seen my Lord Mark Kerr. In the mean time, pray make my compliments, in the most kind manner, to Lady Jane, my blessing to the two young gentlemen, my compliments to Mrs. Hewit, that we are all vastly obliged to her for
her

her care of Lady Jane, and believe me,
with unalterable regard,

Dear JOHN,

Your most devoted friend,

and humble servant,

CRAWFURD.

P. S. Having been so ill, I hope you will
excuse this being wrote by another hand.

Addressed thus :—*To Colonel In^o. Stewart,*
at Rhemes en Champagne.

L E T T E R VI.

Lord BLANTYRE to Lady JANE DOUGLAS.

MADAM,

I HAVE often had the pen in my hand to write to your Ladyship, several of my letters were begun, but, before I had time to finish any one of them, an unlucky trifle still presented itself, and enticed me away; if I have been in the wrong, and I am afraid I have certainly, I have been much punished for it, by being so long deprived of the pleasure of hearing from you. What I have said, I do not mean as a compliment, and I should be sorry, if you looked upon it as such; it is truth itself, and if it were not so, I should not certainly give myself the trouble of sending it so far a journey, as from here to London. To make amends for my past negligence, I wish I had any thing to write that were capable of entertaining you, but I am so stupid, and besides, the gallant anecdotes of Paris do not deserve to occupy, for a moment, your Ladyship's attention.

I hope to hear, by your first letter, that your affairs have taken a turn, and that fortune persecutes you no more; you have suffered more from her caprice, than any
one

one I ever knew, and you have bore it all with a constancy and chearfulness quite uncommon ; many are unfortunate, but few, very few, are unfortunate with so much grace as your Ladyship ; every thing will be compensated soon, at least I hope so.

I beg leave to offer my compliments to Mrs. Hewit ; I am persuaded she thinks me very indegrate. Adieu my dear Lady Jane. I am, most sincerely,

Your very affectionate cousin,

and humble servant,

BLANTYRE.

Paris, 21st January.

I hope the two young heroes are well.

L E T T E R VII.

Lord BLANTYRE to Lady JANE DOUGLAS.

MADAM,

Paris, 24th April.

SO long a silence makes me afraid, that the letter I wrote to your Ladyship in the beginning of January, has never reached you; if it is so, I am sorry for it, because you will think me guilty of a neglect that I am innocent of. If, on the contrary, my letter has come to hand, I shall still be more uneasy to guess at the reason of my not hearing from you. The only way to draw me out of so cruel a perplexity, is to let me hear from you soon, and I know you are too good to leave me long in pain. Write to me soon, dear Lady Jane, and make me happy, for nobody interests himself more than I do, in every thing that regards you. I send this letter by a private hand, that it may run no sort of risk. Adieu, my dear Madam, I send a number of compliments to Mrs. Hewit, to Mr. Stewart, and to my two godsons. Farewell, dear Lady Jane. I am, with the greatest truth imaginable,

Your affectionate cousin

and humble servant,

BLANTYRE.

L E T T E R VIII.

Lettre de Madame La Comtesse de BASSE-
VITZ *, à *My Lady* JEANNE DOUGLAS
 STEUART.

MA TRES CHERE LADY !

VOTRE lettre du 7^{me} de Juillet ne m'a plus trouve à Aix-la-Chapelle. J'en étois déjà partie le 16 du même mois, pour aller à Paris, où après avoir séjourné près de trois mois, rétournant par Bruxelles, j'ai eû le plaisir de recevoir vos chéres lignes. Nous aurions bien aimés, le Comte de Bassevitz et moi, de rester l'hiver à Paris ; mais comme nous avions fait tout le voyage avec nôtre Prince héritaire, et les Princeffes, son épouse, et sa sœur, et que par conséquent, tous nos arrangemens étoient pris de forte que nous ne pouvions nous séparer d'eux sans leur incommodité et la nôtre, il fallut les suivre, lorsque la nouvelle qu'ils reçurent de la maladie du Duc régnant leur pere, les obligea de précipiter leur retour.

* The Countess de Bassevitz is a lady of the court of Mecklenburgh Strelitz. She is in correspondence with M. de Voltaire and most of the celebrated geniuses in Europe, and is upon the whole one of the best and most accomplished women of her time.

Vous

Vous pensez bien, aimable Lady, que nous nous sommes trouvés fort à nôtre aise, dans cette superbe ville, où les plaisirs naissent sous chaque pas. Cependant, en rendant justice à ses beautés, aux chef d'œuvres des differens arts qu'elle étale, et au génie vif et heureux de ses habitans, je n'ai pû m'accommoder de leurs mœurs. La frivolité de leurs entretiens, l'air éventé des hommes, les manières etourdies des femmes, jointes à ce rouge affreux, dont elles masquent leurs teint, et qui fait ressembler les belles à des Lais, les laides à des Mègères, tout cela m'a fait sentir que je suis née pour l'Allemagne, et non pour la France, parce que mon goût ne sçauroit se former à toutes ces fadaïses. Il est vrai, néan moins, que je conçois, que même avec l'humeur que j'ai, on peut vivre tres agréablement à Paris, lorsqu'on a le tems d'y déterrer le petit nombre de gens sensés et savans, qui y sont dispersés, et de lier commerce avec eux ; mais, pour y parvenir il faut fronder les préjugés du public, lequel y permèt tres rarement aux femmes d'être raisonnables, et qui ne nous y regarde que comme des poupées, destinées à faire l'amusement, pour ne pas dire, le jouët des hommes.

Qu' Aix-la-Chapelle m'a paru désert, mi Lady, parceque vous m'y avez manqué. Je m'en suis consolée comme j'ai pû, en m'en-

tretenant de vous avec tous ceux qui vous connoissoient, ou qui avoient entendû parler de vos mérites, et de vos malheurs dans vôtre patrie. J'ai souvent fait la visite à Mad. Tewis, pour lui entendre répéter ce qu'elle sçavoit de vôtre fort. C'est une très bonne femme qui vous est d'autant plus sincèrement attachée, qu'elle vous croit amie intime de sa fille la Colonelle Herbert. Les preuves que'elle m'a dit être en état de vous livrer, pour la verification de vôtre grossesse, sont plus que suffisantes, pour prévenir tout ce que la noire malice de vos ennemis pourroit inventir au préjudice de vos chers jumeaux; surtout, si comme je lui en ai donné le conseil, elle rend son témoignage par devant nottaire, afin de lui procurer la validité d'une deposition autentique. J'ai vu vôtre cousin, mi Lord Drumlanrik. On m'a dit qu'il aspirait à la succession du Duc vôtre frère; j'ai peine à le croire, sa physionomie est trop noble pour qu'il soit capable de la bassesse, de travailler au dépouillement d'une héritière légitime. On l'a dit aussi mécontent de vôtre mariage; j'ignore si cela est vrai, puisqu'il ne s'est pas expliqué sur ce sujet en ma présence, mais au moins l'ai je entendû parler de vôtre personne avec tout le respect qu'on doit à vos vertus. Mad. Tewis vous aura mandé, sans doute, que le Chevalier Cuningham, Officier du régiment

ment de mi Lord, étoit venu s'informer chez elle de circonstances qui vous concernent. Peut-être, qu'abusé lui même par de faux-rapports, il a souhaité d'être éclairci, et cette envie de savoir la vérité supposé, qu'il n'a pas le dessein de vous faire tort. Au surplus il ne gagneroit rien, en agissant, soit directement soit indirectement, contre vous, car des gens qui peuvent être au fait de la chose m'ont assuré, que le Duc de Douglas avoit aussi peu d'envie de favoriser son cousin que sa soeur, et qu'il destine après sa mort, tout ce dont il peut disposer, à une parente, qu'on nomme ainsi que vous Jeanne Douglas, et qui est mariée si je ne me trompe, à ce même Duc de Buccleugh, dont autrefois vous avez réjetté la main. Ce n'est pas d'aujourd'hui, chérissime Lady, que la caractère de mi Lord votre frere est transpiré jusque à ma connoissance, malgré la générosité avec laquelle vous tâchiez de tirer le rideau, sur la dureté des ses procédés envers vous. Il est bien triste, qu'il vous aye forcé à recourir à la justice contre lui. N'auriez vous pas avant d'en venir à cette extrémité, pû trouver quelque occasion de le joindre, et d'émouvoir en lui la nature par votre vuë? La force du sang est grande en de telles rencontres, et souvent le frere qu'on avoit perdu se retrouve entre les bras de sa soeur. Peut-être réussiriez vous
encore

encore de cette façon à le rendre traitable, malgré ce qui s'est passé entre vous, votre magnanimité n'y perdrait rien, puisqu'une avance, faite à un frere, ne feroit qu'un hommage rendu à l'union de votre famille, à la gloire du nom que vous portez tous deux, au bien de vos enfans, et par conséquent à votre amour-propre dirigé par la raison. Mais peut-être juge-je de votre situation, comme un aveugle des couleurs. Vous devez connoître votre frere, et vous avez trop de sentiment et de prudence, pour rien négliger de ce qui pourroit le ramener, si vous n'étiez seure, que c'est impossible, et qu'il a fermé son ame à tout ce qui peut émouvoir un bon naturel. S'il est ainsi mi Lady, permettez moi de vous dire, que lui ayant une fois rompû en visière, par votre recours au gouvernement pour votre pension, vous devez tâcher d'ajuster, maintenant tout ce qui vous pourriez jamais avoir à débattre avec lui, et à vous munir des précautions contre toutes les supercheries, qui pourroient altérer les droits de votre héritage; et cela d'autant plus soigneusement, que si Dieu vous retiroit de ce monde, et Mr. Steward aussi, avant la mort du Duc votre frere, et pendant que vos enfans sont en bas-age ces pauvres innocens coureroient risque de tout perdre. Pardonnez mi Lady si l'ardeur de mon zèle me fait entrer indiscrettement dans

E

trop

trop de detail ; la tendresse de mon amitié pour vous doit me servir d'excuse. Je vous proteste, que l'absence ne rallentit rien à la chaleur des mes sentimens, et que votre idée m'est encore aussi intéressante, et aussi chère, que me le fut jadis votre aimable présence, vos vertus, vos talens, votre caractère, vous ont attachés mon cœur par des liens indissolubles. Quel dommage que la mer nous sépare, et que l'éloignement mette un invincible obstacle à la jouissance d'une si belle amitié. Je rends graces à Mr. Steward de son souvenir ; si mes égards, si ma parfaite estime peuvent le flatter, il a toutes les raisons d'être content de moi. Tenez parole, chère Lady, informez moi de la retraite que vous choisirez, et croyez que je ferai jusqu'au tombeau, avec la considération la plus affectueuse, votre très humble, très obéissante, et très dévouée servante,

SABINE Comtesse de BASSEVITZ.

De Rostoc le 6me de
Mars 1751.

TRANS-

TRANSLATION.

Letter from the Countess of BASSEVITZ, at Rostoc, to Lady JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

MY DEAR LADY,

YOUR letter of the 7th of July did not find me at Aix-la-Chapelle. I had set out for Paris upon the 16th of that month, where having remained near three months, it was in my return by the way of Brussels, that I had the pleasure of receiving your dear lines. The Count de Bassevitz and I would have been very well pleased to have past the winter at Paris; but as we had made the whole journey in company with our Hereditary Prince, and the Princesses, his consort and sister, and of consequence all our matters were so disposed that we could not separate from them, without incommoding both them and ourselves, we were under a necessity of attending them, when the accounts which they received of the reigning Duke their father's being indisposed, obliged them to hasten their return. You are not mistaken, amiable Lady, in supposing that we past our time very agreeably in that magnificent city, where

pleasures spring up under every foot-step. At the same time, while I do justice to its beauties, to the masterly performances which it exhibits in the different arts, and to the lively and happy genius of its inhabitants, I could not conform myself to their manners. The frivolousness of their conversation, the foppish air of the men, and the giddy behaviour of the women, joined to that frightful rouge with which they disguise their complexion, and which makes the handsome resemble courtezans, and the ugly look like hags. All this makes me feel that I was born for Germany, and not for France, as my taste would never be reconciled to such fooleries. I believe, however, that even a person of my turn of mind might live very agreeably at Paris, if one had time to search out the few people of sense and knowledge who are there dispersed, and to form a connexion with them; but, in order to arrive at that, one must combat the prejudices of the publick, which in that place seldom allows women to be reasonable creatures, and which looks upon us as puppets, destined for the amusement, not to say the sport, of men.

What a desert Aix-la-Chapelle appeared to me for want of your company! I comforted myself the best way I could, in conversing about you with all who knew you,

or

or who had heard of your merit, and of your sufferings in your own country. I often visited Madam Tewis, to hear her repeat all that she knew concerning you. She is a very good woman, and is the more sincerely attached to you, that she believes you to be an intimate friend of her daughter, the Lady of Colonel Herbert. The evidence, which she says she is in condition to produce in support of your pregnancy, is more than sufficient to frustrate whatever the blackest malice of your enemies might invent, to the prejudice of your dear twins, especially, if she takes my advice, and delivers her testimony before a notary, in order to give it the force of an authentick deposition.—I have seen your cousin, my Lord Drumlanrig: I was told that he aspired to the succession of the Duke your brother; but I can hardly believe it; the nobleness of his look bespeaks him incapable of so mean an office, as that of supplanting a rightful heir. I have likewise heard, that he was displeased at your marriage. I know nothing of the truth of this, as he never explained himself upon the subject in my presence; but this I can say, that I have heard him speak of you with all the respect that is due to your virtues. Madam Tewis would, no doubt, inform you, that the Chevalier Cunningham, an officer of Lord Drum-

Drumlanrig's regiment, applied to her to be informed of some circumstances concerning you. Perhaps he had been deceived himself by false reports, and wanted to have the matter cleared up; and his desire of knowing the truth, seems to imply, that he has no design of doing you hurt. At any rate, he will gain nothing by acting, either directly or indirectly, against you; for people who have access to know, have assured me, that the Duke of Douglas had as little inclination to favour his cousin as his sister, and that he intends to leave all that he can dispose of, at his death, to a female cousin of the same name with yourself, and who is married, if I am not mistaken, to the same Duke of Buccleugh, whose hand you formerly rejected. It is not of yesterday, my dearest Lady, that I have been acquainted with the character of my Lord your brother, in spite of the generosity with which you endeavoured to draw a veil over the harshness of his proceedings towards you. It is very unhappy that you should be obliged to have recourse to justice against him. Could not you, before coming to that extremity, endeavour to bring about an interview with him, and to awaken the impulse of natural affection in him, by your presence? The force of blood is great upon such occasions, and it often

often happens, that a lost brother is found again in the arms of his sister.—Perhaps, in this way, you may, so far, at least, succeed, as to make him listen to terms, notwithstanding what has passed between you; your magnanimity would suffer nothing by it, because an advance of this sort made to a brother, would be no more than a due homage paid to the union of your family, to the glory of the name which both of you bear, to the good of your children, and, of consequence, to your own self-love, directed by reason. But perhaps I judge of your situation, as a blind person does of colours; you are certainly not unacquainted with your brother, and you have too much sentiment, as well as prudence, to neglect any step which might regain his affections, if you were not positive, that it is to no purpose, and that his breast is steeled to every suggestion of humanity. If that is the case, my Lady, permit me to tell you, that having once so far outfaced him, as to apply to the government for your pension, you ought now to endeavour, as far as in your power, to adjust your matters so as to have no after-questions with him, and to fortify yourself with precautions, against all the tricks which may be made use of, to cut off your right of inheritance; and this you ought to be the more solicitous about, that if God

6

should

should withdraw both you and Mr. Stewart from this world, before the death of the Duke your brother, and while your children are under age, these poor innocents might run a risk of losing all. Pardon me, my Lady, if the ardour of my zeal makes me enter indiscreetly into too minute a discussion; the tendernefs of my friendship for you will plead my excuse. I protest to you, that absence abates nothing of the warmth of my sentiments, and that your idea is at present as interesting and as dear to me, as was formerly your amiable presence. Your virtues, your talents, your character, have bound my heart to you by indissoluble ties. What pity it is, that the sea divides us, and that distance occasions an invincible bar to the enjoyment of so perfect a friendship. I return thanks to Mr. Stewart for his remembrance of me; if my regard, if my perfect esteem, can flatter him, he has reason to be satisfied with me. Keep your word, dear Lady, inform me of the retreat which you make choice of, and believe that I shall be, to the grave, with the most affectionate respect, your most humble and most obedient servant,

SABINE Countess of BASSEVITZ:

Rostoc, 6th March, 1751.

L E T T E R IX.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Saturday Morning.

GOOD morrow to you, according to Lord Blantyre's stile: I hope, by the letter I am expecting every moment from you, to hear that your cold is absolutely removed; in that case, I beg you to be thankful to the great bestower of all good, who daily loads us with his favours.

The colds at present, which scarce any have escaped, are so much more severe than that you complained of, makes me write the little exhortation above, to put you in mind of gratitude to our great Benefactor; though you may justly say, that remonstrance was needless to you, who are always so sensible of favours received from friends. Our Almighty Friend cannot then be forgotten by one who has such sentiments as yours.

I inclose here the card I received in return to mine from Captain Wilson and his lady; I am to make inquiry after her health, and a proper excuse for your not coming immediately to wait on him.

The town continues as dull as I am, affording not one thing worthy the pains to
F write,

write, or you to read : yet I can tell you what will please you beyond every other thing, that our dear little ones are well ; poor Mrs. Hewit also begins to mend ; she put on blisters last night behind her ears, and finds herself this morning much better. I stop here till I receive your letter, which will certainly enliven me ; but this I ought not to have said, lest it produce another kind quarrel on your side.

This moment I have the satisfaction of yours, and though you write nothing of your cold, James brings the agreeable account, that it is quite well, blessed be God that it is so. The glimpse of hope you mention, I hope shall come out soon in a full blaze of joy and satisfaction.

What you write concerning Lady Betty and her spouse, is well imagined and expressed ; we shall very soon see the extent of their friendship ; I should have more properly said the constancy of it, since I have already received material proofs of it, which I shall never forget.

I send a fine fowl, and a piece of beef, I hope as fine as the last you commended so much. I flatter myself Tuesday shall prove a good day, that I may have the pleasure to tell you how much I am affectionately yours, which words cannot so well express.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R X.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Tuesday.

I HAVE felt so much pain since I left you, for the few rash words expressed at parting, that I take this way to discharge, if possible, some part of the burden of grief I have suffered upon that occasion; at the same time that I find myself unable to give you an idea of the one half of my sorrow, which will not diminish, till you, with your usual goodness and indulgence to me, assure me of a pardon. Dear Mr. Stewart, write as soon as this comes to your hands, that you are not displeased, which will make me happy again. I won't enter upon the subject of our debate, which caused my wrong-headed expressions; only this far, that I confess you were in the right, and I excessively in the wrong. I am from my heart and soul conscious and sensible of my fault; so, once more, dear Mr. Stewart, pardon it, and pass it over, and never in your life think more of my ill-judged, as well as ill-managed arguings.

On Friday, please God, I intend to dine with you; don't provide dinner, I bring one along with me.

Receive inclosed a moidore; I'll bring a little more of the same metal with me; wish I could bring as much as would deliver you out of your confinement.

Dear little Archie and Sholto are charmed with their hats, and have promised to be good boys: they're in perfect health, blessed be God, as I am; only till I hear from you, and that you are friends with me, I shall have no tranquillity of mind. Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart. In spite of frequent idle fancies, I am, and ever shall be, with the tenderest and warmest affection, yours.

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART,

L E T T E R XI.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Friday, 1 o' Clock.

YESTERDAY, just after I made answer to yours, I received a letter from my guardian angel, in return to a card I sent her, the contents are as follows :

MADAM,

I should be extremely sorry to give your Ladyship the trouble of calling on me, but am very glad I can now with certainty assure you, your request has been laid before his Majesty by the Duke of Newcastle ; and Saturday last Mr. Pelham had notice from his brother it was granted. Proper notice of this, I conclude, Mr. Pelham will give your Ladyship. And I am, Madam, your most obedient, &c.

3d August.

I dare say you'll be pleased with the contents of this letter ; I expect every hour to be informed of the matter by another hand ; but the early notice of favourable things come always by her friendly hands.

Mrs. Hewit is better to-day ; the little men are well. Adieu, intirely yours.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Saturday.

I SEE you are better versed in Elibank and his brother's affairs, than any information I can give can possibly make you; however, I'm always pleased to give you, in your present solitude, any little piece of news that comes my way, which, indeed, but very seldom presents itself to me. I think with you, that Miss Murray, by her behaviour in this matter, appears to have both honour and good sentiments. I can't doubt but Elibank will soon come to see you; then you may, with decency, offer my request to him, and I think, as you do, you may expect success.

I was to wait on Lady Mary Douglas, Thursday; her father Lord Morton was present, and received me very kindly and obligingly the first visit, and people being by, I could come upon no particulars, but when he comes here, as probably he will, I shall then talk over several things with him. His daughter is a very beautiful girl, gentle and well bred, not yet fourteen, and is as tall as a woman.

I did not so much as think of the 17th of March, when I read your intention of having Claret and Burgundy some days hence; that profusion does not, I confess, please me much in our present situation, nor does the reason you give for it mend the matter at all; Lisbon or Cherry, if you will remember that day, is sufficient to solemnize the birth-day of one so far advanced as I am; but if in remembrance and honour of St. Patrick, no liquor is good enough; I would not therefore endeavour to keep the day at all, only by praying a little more than ordinary, not to him, but to Almighty God, who daily loads us with benefits, and spares us to see the returns of new years, and birth-days. If your affairs took a happy turn, that happy period I would indeed solemnize myself, with all the rare fine delicacies could be imagined, but, till that satisfactory moment arrives, it becomes us to shun every extravagance, and to walk softly and very humbly; in the mean time, I send you a young pig, which, I hope, will be a little regale to the King, and you also a young fowl.

I'm glad you took the rhubarb, and that it did so well with you; take every fine moment of good weather to walk, as you have always been accustomed to do; and take
great

great care of your health, which secures my happiness.

I can learn no news to divert you, but I send a book of poems, which I hope will ; it was wrote by a gardener's daughter, a young girl, uneducated, and yet it is esteemed well wrote, and the language fine : return it so soon as you have read it ; it is not mine, I borrowed it from Mr. Clayton.

The little men are well, but Mrs. Nelly is mightily distressed, yet affectionately yours. I shall leave off here, till James comes, then I shall add a few lines, and bid you adieu till next morning that you send. Just after dinner, I received the pleasure of yours ; you imagine me partial, when I commend your manner of writing, but I declare it is quite otherways, and my sentiments are intirely unbiaffed ; and to shew you how great my opinion of your good sense and judgment is, I must beg you write down, by way of hints, what the articles are, that you judge most proper for me to insist upon, when I next see the E. of Morton ; for any further than to thank him for his timely generous supply, I cannot possibly stoop to demand more ; this I am determined not to do ; as for other topicks, to speak on these, no doubt, are various : I therefore wish to have your thoughts on
the

the heads you think I should insist most on; that won't hinder me to mention, perhaps dwell, on some subjects that I may find proper to talk to him about. I shall probably see him the beginning of next week; any sooner I can't expect, being just come to town, and a great deal to do.

Use Elibank in your own way, you best know his good and bad properties.

Archie's asleep, and Sholto above stairs prattling by him, else they, perhaps, would send some kisses to their dear papa.

Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart, ever with the greatest tenderness and affection, yours.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XIII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Thursday.

I Received with pleasure your letter this moment, and begin mine in the same manner you do yours, with wishing you every happiness and felicity this year, and a great number of them. As for your witty fallies I won't answer them; but for the attack you make upon my love and friendship, that I can, and must assure you, is as sincere and warm as ever, though many invincible reasons makes it impossible to give the proofs of it I could wish to do; be satisfied of this, as I am of every thing that is good and kind on your part. As to the rest of your letter, I shall answer it next occasion, which, I believe, shall be on Saturday, when I shall send John pretty early in the morning; dispatch him then soon. I have wrote this in such a hurry, I'm afraid you can't read it.

The children are mighty well, blessed be God, as Mrs. Hewit and I am, and tenderly and affectionately yours, as I am in a particular manner.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XIV.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to* Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Sunday Morning.

THAT implies a short letter ; yours I received this moment with great pleasure ; your regard and kindness to me, which has prompted you to the expence you've made in sending finer wines than I think the day required (barring the honour due to St. Patrick) makes that I dare offer nothing against that obliging demonstration.

Your cold is not quite gone, which gives me pain ; for heaven's sake, be careful to take every thing proper to remove it.

The children are, I bless God, well. Poor Mrs. Nellie, far from being so, had a very bad night of it ; you'll see I am in a great hurry just going to church ; Dear Mr. Stewart, entirely yours, with great affection.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XV.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Monday Evening.

YOUR not writing this morning, you having accustomed me to that satisfaction, has given me a great deal of painful anxiety, the rheumatick pain in your arm, the uneasiness you complained of in your head, though not a head-ach, all these things together has made my mind very uneasy; I have therefore sent Mr. Smith to inquire how things are with you, and would have gone myself, but the rain and wet under foot prevented me, and coaches are expensive.

Mr. Lockhart of Carnwath was with me this morning, and to do him justice, behaved extremely well, with great kindness, friendship and politeness; spoke of you with the warmest friendship and esteem, called for the children, and appeared transported to see them, commended them more than I think they deserve, for he said he never had seen two such fine boys, especially Archie took his eye; he was delighted with him, and repeated several times with pleasure that he was just your picture.

In

In regard to your son Mr. Jacky, he protested he had all along acted the friendly and honourable part, and that a little before he left Scotland, your son had got up all the bonds that were committed to his trust, which only, from friendship to you, he engaged and concerned himself in: his whole behaviour and manner of acting since you left Scotland, he refers you to be informed by your friend George Sinclair, with whom he consulted, and took along with him, in whatever related to your son: I, therefore, beg, when you meet with Mr. Lockhart, which he anxiously wishes for, you may first hear him speak before you condemn him; he goes out of town to-night, but is to return to-morrow, he wants to have an interview with you; I said you were in the country, but that upon my giving you notice, you wou'd come to town, he is soon to set out for Scotland. Mrs. Hewit continues still better, the little men are well: I hope to have the same good accounts of you. Adieu, Dear Mr. Stewart, ever entirely yours.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XVI.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Thursday.

PRAY don't pay me so many compliments in my doing what is just and right, and what shall ever afford me so much pleasure ; I am glad you have hopes of every thing's coming out to your wish ; I never can allow myself to doubt of success at last ; these delays are only permitted to acquaint us with the virtue of patience and resignation. Things so useful and amiable, who would not be put at any age to such a school ? I'm glad you have got acquainted with so agreeable a gentleman ; you do well to cultivate it : I send the history of Douglas : I send a bit of velvet and a snuff-box for a little rapee, which I am quite out of, send it back any time to-day, or to-morrow, only quarter filled.

I'm invited to-morrow evening to Lady Tyrawly's, if you chuse to be there it is well.

We're all mighty well, and the little men very much so, blessed be God : I take abundance of care of myself, and of the dear little ones, as you may well believe ; pray
take

take my example of being careful of yourself.

I have nothing new to offer; only Mrs. Hewit was at the ball on Monday, she underwent many hardships and difficulties that night by the excessive cold and great crowd, but has luckily got the better of all; she says they are a very amiable family, and is fallen in love with King George. Adieu, Dear Mr. Stewart, always more yours than I can express.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XVII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Chelsea, Thursday, March 5.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I HAVE this moment the pleasure of your letter by your messenger; this and all your's are ever welcome and agreeable to me; but the paragraph in some of your late letters, and in this last one in particular, upon religious matters, absolutely charm me; go on, dear Mr. Stewart, fix your eyes, your hope, and trust above, and all worldly concerns will soon seem perfectly easy, nay will, in reality, become so; for God never disappoints those that intirely depend on him, nor will he continue to afflict, when we fly to him for succour, and place our whole happiness in his favour alone; allow me to send you by the bearer a favourite book of mine, Thomas a Kempis; read it, I beg you, in it you'll discover so much heavenly, and even worldly wisdom, that it never fails to please both the spiritual and temporal mind, and to instruct both.

Your letters by Greenly I received yesterday, they were most acceptable to me; he would

would tell you the reason why I could not send sooner to you than Tuesday last, and that I was obliged to employ him to carry my letter to you; and likewise yesterday gave him a packet, I believe, from your son, to carry to you to-day, John being not yet able to go out; but against Saturday I design to send him, if better.

You imagine, because I happened to say in one of my letters, that I took uncommon care of my health, that on that account I am become low-spirited; nothing is farther from me, I bless God, than low spirits; many years ago they were not near so much so; yet I do think, and must think, that my life at present is, and ought to be, more my concern than formerly; because I have you and the children to care for. Is that a reason to think that I am become low-spirited, because I would like to live some time longer for your sakes? The end of the week, or beginning of next, I shall write more fully on every thing.

I am, &c.

J. D. S.

The children are very well, I bless God.

L E T T E R XVIII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Chelsea, Friday Evening.

I'M resolv'd you should have no reason to complain any more of my remissness in writing to you; so have engaged Mr. Grinley to step over to you to-morrow morning, by whom I hope to have the agreeable account of your being perfectly well, as we are all here, I bless God.

I'm extremely sorry that you're quite out of pocket-money, and the more so, that it is not in my power to supply you, nor I don't know when it shall, it being by no means to be expected, that the money the King has been graciously pleased to allow me, is immediately to be paid just a few days after the term it falls due, nor is it fit for me to shew any impatience about the payment; so I must have patience.

I was obliged to borrow half a guinea last Monday from a friend, just for necessary things; judge then, dear Mr. Stewart, if out of that I can send you any supply. But I won't dwell upon this painful subject, nor indeed upon any, for I must end with assuring you, that I ever am, with
all

all possible affection and tendernefs, dear
Mr. Stewart, intirely yours,

J. D. S.

The children often talk of their dear
Papa, and are impatient to fee you. Judge
then how much more I am fo.

L E T T E R XIX.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Friday Evening.

YOUR seeming to be so much on the melancholy turn in your last letter, gave me a considerable uneasiness, of which I have not yet got the better. Why will you allow your spirits to sink, dear Mr. Stewart? It is that alone that gives me pain, and when I think that your mind is easy, the little difficulties we are in at present gives no manner of disquiet, save your confinement, and my seeing you so seldom; that is indeed shocking, but it is hardly to be bore when you sink under it. Pray then keep up your spirits, if not for your own sake, for mine; let this be an argument to persuade you to bear well up under all your distresses; if you don't, you will assuredly distress me, more than all my calamities have hitherto done; for, to say the truth, when I look around, I see and hear of so many people much more unhappy than myself, that I really think I am a great deal more fortunate in many things than others are, or than I deserve to be.

I in-

I inclose here five shillings, employ it in giving me the satisfaction of a visit on Monday or Tuesday next.

The children and we are all mighty well, I bless God.

L E T T E R XX.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Sunday Evening.

YOU may justly think it odd, dear Mr. Stewart, as well as unkind, that I did not answer your letter yesterday, which you wrote from so obliging and so affectionate a motive ; but your messenger was in so mighty a hurry, and pretended letters to be delivered necessarily before five, some of which I believ'd might belong to you, that I would not let him wait a moment for a letter from me, it being three in the afternoon ere he came here. I write this now, to make apology for that appearing neglect, and to know particularly how your cold is, as every body complains they are very obstinate this season, and I'm afraid you are not so careful of yourself as you shou'd be ; and, alas ! I am not near you to take that care which I wou'd wish to do, and which I am sensible you want so much ; therefore, dear Mr. Stewart, let me beg you for my sake and for the childrens, to neglect nothing that you think will contribute to remove your cold, before it gets too fast a seat, which if it does, will with great difficulty

difficulty be remov'd : and, pray let me know if you choose to have any mum, and I will send you some by next occasion, from the place you used to get it. I return here Mr. Hamilton's letter, it is a very civil one : I wish your scheme which you're to offer him may suit him.

I have not seen Greenly since Tuesday, so I know nothing how matters go on that quarter ; but however they go, I am perfectly resign'd ; and not only so, but satisfied and pleased, well knowing, that bounteous Providence will work out a way for our deliverance in the best way, and at the best time, if we in the mean time will be but patient and submissive.

Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart, I ever am with the greatest tenderness yours.

Mrs. Hewit returns you many thanks for your kind offer of honey, but has got some, so you need not send any ; she sends you her best wishes and compliments ; her cold continues still obstinate. The children are very well, I bless God. Once more adieu, dear Mr. Stewart. I had not room to sign my name on the other side : I put it in large on this.

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

L E T T E R XXI.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Thursday Evening.

I Received your letter yesterday, and by it I perceive your spirits are depressed, which a great deal mitigates the joy and satisfaction your letters usually give me. No wonder you are discouraged, and quite tired out of patience with your lonely, disagreeable quarters, and many other unlucky occurrences : but are all these, in common with other human creatures, sufficient maladies to sink the spirits, or to harbour the smallest murmuring, as if too rigorously dealt with ? We have made mighty small progress in looking inward, and in judging aright of ourselves, when we frame such a conclusion ; for certain it is, we have many more blessings and benefits that call loudly for our acknowledgments to Almighty God, than cause of complaint. For my own part, after many times considering the situation of all around me, even of those counted the most happy, and upon this reflection, looking home into myself, I find I am possessed of more happiness than any I have yet heard of, or can fix my eyes upon, any where abroad : so then, dear Mr. Stewart,

learn

learn to be contented, and absolutely resigned to the divine disposer of all things; and then, I can assure you, your mind will obtain perfect quiet and happiness, and, at the same time, be in the more proper and probable way of having your wishes and heart's desire accomplished. This is a long sermon you'll say: I delight in preaching, when I can't forbear it, even when you desire me to send you Pere Chemeine, who can so much better exhort and teach: I send him to you with great joy; and your desiring him, though contained in a mighty small volume, gives me infinite satisfaction.

Duchess Wharton and Countess Wigton were with me yesterday: the duchess inquired very obligingly after you; and for the Countess, you're prodigiously in her favour: she really speaks of you on all occasions with uncommon friendship and concern. I'm excessively glad that the good Baron continues in better health: I sincerely wish him every thing that is prosperous and happy. Offer him my best respects, as Mrs. Hewit does, and most affectionately to you. Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart; be you but happy and easy, and I am extremely so, and ever yours.

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

The children are very well, I bless God.

L E T T E R XXII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Friday Evening.

I Received your letter yesterday from Grinley, at his house in town, being come in to go with Lady Wigton to Lady Tyrrawley's, where I met Lady Home and Mrs. Winter. All these ladies sent you a thousand compliments, particularly Lady Home, who is charmed with the bottle of salts you sent the other day, which shewed so kind an attention about her: the other Countess is to be your guest on St. Patrick's day; to whom you're also much obliged in point of kindness. Mr. Mackarcher proposes to conduct us to you on Tuesday. I am to send what is necessary for dinner the day before; so pray don't you provide any thing, save a bottle of wine, as the stocks are so low, it would be out of all common sense to have any extraordinaries in such a situation, and in such circumstances; and as we need use no mighty ceremony with our guests, they being both, I dare say, our sincere friends; therefore expence would make them justly doubt that we believed them so.

I'm charmed that my favourite book pleases you so much : by all I can see in most of your late letters, I verily believe you're upon the way of becoming a saint yourself, as well as St. Thomas and the rest of the saints, that you of late days have been so conversant with. Judge how this thought delights me ; how it raises my spirits, and sets me above all misfortunes. Had I a great many, as indeed I think I have none, save that you are in captivity, and I at a distance from you, these are painful indeed ; but all the rest of my fate is perfectly happy : I wish only I could be sufficiently thankful for it. The dear little children are mighty well, I bless God.

Mrs. Hewit is a good deal better, and is most affectionately yours.

Being to see you, please God, so soon, I shall not add any more now ; but to assure you, that I truly am, with the greatest affection and tenderness, intirely yours.

J. DOUGLAS STEWART.

L E T T E R XXIII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Friday Night.

HAVING wrote to you this evening already, and designing to see you the beginning next week, I refer every thing I have to say to you till then; only I must here assure you, that I am highly pleased with your wise and prudent letter; and certainly, to be patient and calm under every calamity, even those of our own acquiring, is the religious and wisest part. But I must confess I am a little uneasy to find you so much upon the supposition that I took any offence at the heat with which you spoke the other day: lay all these anxious thoughts aside, dear Mr. Stewart, and believe once for all, that nothing gives me pain or disquiet, but the fears I sometimes have for your being disheartened for little cross accidents; assure me you never will be any more so, and then I'm perfectly happy.

Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart. The children and we are all well, blessed be God, and very happy, only somewhat poor, which I
only

(61)

only regret, because I cannot send you even pocket-money; but we'll grow richer; and in whatever situation I am in, I ever am most tenderly and affectionately yours.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XXIV.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Chelsea, Wednesday.

IT has not been in my power to send sooner, though impatient to know how you do. I have nothing now material to write, but that dear little Archy and Sholto are well, as we all are, blessed be God.

I hope you profit of this fine weather, as the children and I do. I was in town yesterday, and find myself the better for it. I hope your cold is quite gone. Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart: You shall here again from me this week, with a small supply for your pocket, which I have these days past sent in search about. I ever am, with the tenderest affection, yours,

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XXV.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Tuesday Morning.

YOU may judge how low money matters are with me at present, by this most scurvy poor half-crown I send you; I'm quite ashamed of it, and, to conceal it from my servants, I have inclosed it well wrapt up in the pretty little money-box, which ought to contain gold; wish to heaven I could send of that useful, but rare metal with us. This poor bit of silver I send just to procure you a little rappee.

Ever yours.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XXVI.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Chelsea, Tuesday.

HOW did your last letter, dear Mr. Stewart, affect my heart! where you tell me you subsisted for so many days upon the small remains of our little dinner, and not wherewith to send even for porter; and this all owing to your parting too freely with your few shillings to me, which I took from you with regret; no wonder, since I could so much easier get a supply where I am, than you possibly can, in your confined quarter. But, dear Mr. Stewart, cheer up, for I hope very soon to bring you as much money as shall make you above these pressing painful necessities; and, in a little time, I hope kind indulgent Providence shall set you and I above our present inconveniencies, which by the way only give me pain, because I know your spirit cannot easily bear up under them; but, believe me, the only way to get soon rid of any calamities, is to be entirely resigned, patient, and submissive, during the duration of them; such a disposition is certainly pleasing to heaven, and provides for after happinesses, even in this life.

The

The very well-tim'd supply Mr. Farquhar gave you, of which you sent me too large a share; I shall never forget that kind proof of his friendship, and I need not put you in mind to make it up to him a hundred fold when in your power, which, I hope, shall soon be the case.

I did not chuse to write last Sunday, tho' we were all well. Dear little Archy has had a little cold, with a small degree of a fever; but, blessed be God, 'tis now in a manner quite over: do not be angry with John for not mentioning it to you; he could not indeed do it; as I knew nothing myself of the child's being ill, till after I had given him orders to go early in the morning to see how you were. I must own, when I perceived the child hot, and, as I thought, in danger of taking a fever, or the small-pox, I felt a pain and distress of mind not to be expressed: I slept not a wink for a whole night, and was not without great anxiety the next day, though he was grown considerably better; and now, all is, I think, over, blest be God; and so, would not have mentioned it to you, but to convince you, that no outward bad circumstances can in the least disquiet or discompose me; only what concerns you, dear Mr. Stewart, and these two little babies, Archy and Sholto, robs me of rest and ease.

K

Let

Let this persuade you to take care of your health, and to bear up with fortitude under the present frowns of fortune, which will, more than any other thing, oblige your ever tenderly affectionate

J. D. S.

I send you a little tea, and a few flakes; a fine present indeed, but all in good time, better will come after, if we'll have but patience.

Four o'clock afternoon, Archy's now so well, that he's playing in the garden.

Mrs. Hewit sends you her kind compliments; begs to know if you have got her spectacles set in silver, which she got from Mrs. Cockburn, thinking, perhaps, you might by chance have taken them in place of your own*.

Archy's just come up stairs, and desires me to send you his humble duty.

* Lord Barjarg in his speech on the Douglas cause laid some weight on these spectacles as a proof of Lady Jane's extravagance. The truth however was, they were set in silver when Mrs. Hewit got them.

L E T T E R XXVII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to* Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Friday Night.

THE weather does not yet seem to favour my intended visit to you; and besides, I find Tuesday next will suit my little affairs better to perform it; so that day you may expect me, please God, to dine with you, unless a constant rain prevent it. For all this delay, I long much to see you; and since I cannot have that satisfaction till next week, I send this purposely to have the pleasure of receiving a particular account of you, which I hope shall be, that you are in great good health and spirits, as we all here are, and the dear little men extremely so: I think that may be enough to keep you from any great abatement in yours. So, dear Mr. Stewart, adieu till Tuesday. Believe me ever, in the tenderest manner, affectionately yours.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I BLESS God the children are in perfect good health, so you may judge how surpris'd I was upon receiving yours. Your little messenger must delight in telling painful stories : however, don't chide the boy, for it was only a mistake.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XXIX.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to* Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Monday Evening.

I Intended this letter should have been with you this morning, but John was so ill of a cold and tooth-ach, that I could not send him out, so most unwillingly must defer sending it till to-morrow, and then I believe I shall be obliged to send it by one of the maids to Grinlay, to desire him to carry it to you, till our servant be recovered.

I have been the more uneasy, that I could not possibly get your last letter sooner answered, as it kindly mentions a visit from me, so obligingly, and with so much tenderness desired. I do assure you, dear Mr. Stewart, you can't wish it more earnestly than I do; nor shall it suffer one day's delay, when I can possibly perform it; and that shall be when I'm perfectly free of a little cold that has hung about me this while past, and though far from being severe, yet it is somewhat obstinate in going intirely off, for which I continue to take almost every night bran water and raisins, which does me great service. You may
justly

justly think I am at much pains and care about myself; I truly think so too; but that does not use to be my fault, only of late I begin to be mighty dainty of myself, because I think my life, in the present unhappy posture of our affairs, may be of some use and service to you and the children: this is all my anxiety for living, and the cause that forces me to take so much care of myself; but if the weather prove as favourable as it has been these several days past, I hope to have the satisfaction to come to see you next week, and to stay with you two or three days.

Countess Home was here Saturday forenoon, and took Mrs. Hewit, the children, and I, out in her coach, for an airing: she's a very obliging, friendly woman, and you are a mighty favourite of hers and Mrs. Winter's, which recommends them much to me. Pray let me either have the Italian novel, or what part you have transcribed, I fancy it will be agreeable to read. When I can light on any diverting book, I shall certainly send it to you: alas, you stand too much in need of amusements in the dismal solitude you're confined to; but, dear Mr. Stewart, keep up your heart, and, above all things, trust in God, and all things will go well with you, and consequently with me.

The

The children are very well, I bless God.

I expect a long letter from you by the bearer of this ; be assured, that the longer your letters are, they are always the more agreeable. Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart. I ever am, with the utmost tenderness and affection, intirely yours,

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

Your two shirts you sent, shall be carefully mended.

L E T T E R XXX.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. PELHAM.

S I R,

IF I meant to importune you, I should ill deserve the generous compassion which I was informed some months ago you express'd, upon being acquainted with my distrefs. I take this as the least troublesome way of thanking you, and desiring you to lay my application before the King in such a light, as your own humanity will suggest. I cannot tell my story without seeming to complain of one of whom I never will complain. I am persuaded my brother wishes me well, but from a mistaken resentment, upon a creditor of mine demanding from him a trifling sum, he has stopt the annuity which he had always paid me.—My father having left me, his only younger child, in a manner unprovided for.

Till the Duke of Douglas is set right, which I'm confident he will be, I am destitute.—Presumptive heiress of a great estate and family, with two children, I want bread.—Your own nobleness of mind will make you feel how much it costs me to beg, though from the king. My birth, and the
attach-

attachment of my family, I flatter myself, his Majesty is not unacquainted with ; should he think me an object of his royal bounty, my heart won't suffer any bounds to be set to my gratitude ; and, give me leave to say, my spirit won't suffer me to be burdensome to his Majesty, longer than my cruel necessity compels me.

I little thought of ever being reduced to petition in this way ; your goodness will therefore excuse me, if I have mistaken the manner, or said any thing improper.

Though personally unknown to you, I rely upon your intercession ; the consciousness of your own mind, in having done so good and charitable a deed, will be a better return than the perpetual thanks of, Sir, your most obliged, most faithful, and most obedient servant,

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

St. James's Place,
May 15, 1750.

L E T T E R XXXI.

*From Mr. PELHAM to Lady JANE
DOUGLAS.*

MADAM, Arlington-street, Aug. 3d, 1750.

I HAVE the pleasure now to acquaint you, that his Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of the humble request which I laid before him, and to order me to pay you three hundred pounds a-year, as long as your Ladyship's situation shall make such an assistance from his Majesty's bounty necessary for your support. This method will, I flatter myself, be most agreeable to you, as the whole sum will come to you without fees or deductions; and no further trouble now remains to your Ladyship, than to authorise your agent to receive it from my hands, the first half year of which I shall be ready to pay to your order any time after next Michaelmas. Whatever share I may have had in procuring to your Ladyship this mark of the King's goodness, cannot but be very pleasing to me, as it furnishes me with an opportunity of testifying the great respect with which I have the honour to be, &c.

L E T T E R XXXII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to the Earl of*
MORTON.

MY LORD,

London, Dec. 22, 1750.

SOME months ago I did myself the honour to write your Lordship, acquainting you, that I had good reason to believe the King was graciously disposed to grant me some relief, having received the application made to him in the most favourable manner. I have now the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship, that his Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint me three hundred pounds a-year; and Mr. Pelham, without my taking the liberty to desire it, was so extremely humane and good, as to pay up a hundred and fifty of it before it became due, knowing my distressful situation. I could not have been so far wanting in duty and gratitude to you, my Lord, as not to have informed you of this long ere now, but that I still expected from post to post an answer to my former letter; being deeply impressed, as I mentioned in my last, that whatever good fortune has befallen me, is entirely owing to your Lordship's great and uncommon goodness to me, else I should

have been out of the way of receiving any, still at Reims, and there, long before this time, without credit, and in the most deplorable condition. Judge then, my Lord, what my sense of your goodness is, and what my gratitude ought to be: I'm sure my heart is full of it, but I have not words to express the half of what I feel on this occasion. My Lady Irwin, to whom I owe a thousand obligations, and to whom I often speak my sentiments with regard to your Lordship, can better than I am capable, acquaint you with what I cannot find expressions fit to represent to you myself. Her Ladyship, according to her continued favour for me, did me the honour to introduce me last Friday to the King, who was graciously pleased to receive me with peculiar marks of good will and kindness: Lady Irwin, who is acquainted with courts, assured me, that the greatest favourite could not have had a more favourable reception, for which I shall ever retain a lasting gratitude. Next Sunday I am to be introduced by her Ladyship to the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Friday following, to the Duke, and Princess Amelia. Excuse the length of this letter, and do me the justice to believe that I am, with the highest esteem and the greatest regard, my Lord, your Lordship's most grateful and most obedient

obedient servant, and most affectionate
cousin,

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

January 5th, 1751.

I began the inclosed to your Lordship
some Days ago, but was not able to finish
it till this day, as you'll see by the different
dates, being seized with a very severe cold.

Permit me to offer my best compliments
to Lord Aberdour, and to Lady Mary Doug-
las: I can't end this, without wishing them
and your Lordship a great number of happy
years. It shall ever be my earnest prayer
and wish, that singular and distinguished
blessings may be the lot of my Lord Mor-
ton, and the lot of his children.

Mr. Stewart offers his respectful compli-
ments to your Lordship, and to Lord Aber-
dour and Lady Mary.

When you honour me with a letter,
which I long much for, direct for me at
Mr. Murray's at St. James's Place.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to* Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Saturday.

I HAVE this moment the pleasure of yours, but I have some disquiet that your cold is not yet quite removed. For Heaven's sake, take care of your health, so dear to me.

Your generous concern and grief for the death of the Prince of Wales, I join heartily with you in, and in your sympathy with the greatly distressed Princess.

I intended this should have been a very long letter, but that is impossible at such a confused time. On Monday I expect to make it out; for I do assure you, it gives me great pleasure when I have matter sufficient to make out a long letter to you; it is next to the joy of talking to you, which I am deprived of now; but this I don't repine at, it being my perfect and constant belief, that whatever wise and bounteous Providence allots, is surely most certainly for the best.

I am ever yours,

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Monday.

THE account you gave me yesterday of your being so well entertained the day before, afforded me much pleasure. I'm sure all your guests were greatly regaled and pleased with the agreeable manner you received and entertained them; so young Leslie told me last night, and added, that he never saw you in such high spirits as you were that day, which much supported mine, which, thanks be to God, are never very low; but what he said of your being the anchove of the company, (as was formerly said of Dr. Garth) made them uncommonly high, as if I had taken castor drops; may yours always be so, and flow high without the help of any cordial.

What you say of Lord Glencairn's manner of receiving and answering your proposal, I think very well of, and am of opinion it promises well for his intention to serve you.

Trust you in God, and there is no fear of you, some one way or other Providence will point out to give deliverance.

L E T T E R XXXV.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Wednesday Morning.

I HAVE just now read your letter over with great pleasure, and with satisfaction, and am set down to answer it: The whole contents of it are wrote with good sense, sentiment, and judgment; and that part upon Providence, and the unerring and unfearchable wisdom and goodness of Almighty God, charms me beyond measure; by which I see plainly the goodness of your heart in religious matters. May these good inclinations ever grow, which are alone capable to make one happy.

The little men are, I blefs God, very happy.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART, Saturday.

I SAW the two Miss Gunnings, whom Lady Tyrauley had invited on purpose that I might see them : they are excessively charming ; no wonder they gain the admiration of every body who sees them, and that sprightly Mr. Walker was smote ; and I do think they don't want a good share of sense ; and I don't think they are much affected ; I have seen many who have no title to half their charms much more so.

You were much inquired after by Lady Tyrauley and Countess of Buchan yesterday ; I made the properest answer to their compliments I could.

The little ones and I are, I bless God, very well.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to* Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

YOU'LL see by the news papers, that Duke Hamilton is married to the youngest Miss Gunning, she's a charming pretty creature, and generally well spoke of.

I am ever yours.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to* Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Sunday Night.

SINCE I had the pleasure of seeing you, I have had the satisfaction of receiving your two kind acceptable letters, but being from home, could answer neither of them till just now ; and though late, I begin my letter to assure you, that I give the utmost attention to what you write as to my manner of travelling, and shall with pleasure observe all your rules, only in return, be so kind to me, as not to have too much anxiety about me ; doubt not my care of myself, and of our dear little ones.

A list of my debts I shall send in my next, or rather leave it inclosed in a letter to you for Grinlay to deliver.

Dear Mr. Stewart, take care of yourself, and be chearful and easy, as you wou'd oblige and make happy your ever tenderly affectionate

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

L E T T E R XXXIX.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

Edinburgh 18.

I AM now in my own country once more, and, blessed be God, arrived there in perfect safety, and in perfect good health; the children too are mighty well, and in great good spirits, delighted with every thing they see; and the people, as we came along, and here, seem, in indulgence to me, to be highly delighted with them.

We came to town yesterday the 17th, so that our journey was not a tedious one, and was a very agreeable one in all respects, only the want of you was a painful circumstance, and could not fail to give me abundance of uneasy thoughts; but I assure you, dear Mr. Stewart, I don't indulge them, on the contrary, I banish them from me, and good reason I have to do so, since I am confident that every thing will come out very happily for you and I, if we but trust and resign ourselves intirely to the will and pleasure of Almighty God.

I had the pleasure, on my arrival, to receive your welcome letter from Mr. Colville;

ville ; I hope all your expectations shall be answered, to the full of your utmost wish.

I have nothing as yet to write, having seen nobody ; but shall neglect no occasion of writing to you, and I very well know how punctual you are. Madam Hewit held out bravely, she is excessively much your affectionate humble servant, and I am more tenderly and affectionately yours than I am able to express.

J. D. S.

Since I wrote this, Lady Mary Hamilton is come in, and sends you her affectionate compliments.

L E T T E R XL.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Edinburgh, September 3d, 1752.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I Received your welcome letter last post, with Mr. Farquhar's postscript; the assurance he gives me of your being in perfect health, and good spirits, gives me inexpressible joy and satisfaction; may that agreeable news be long continued to me, which will make me always happy.

Have no concern about what falls due the end of this month, I took proper care before I left London, to recommend that matter to a special friend, and am to write soon to another about it.

Don't be uneasy and impatient because I cannot yet write of any thing that is material, but rest content and assured, that I have, and will neglect no occasion of doing every thing that is expedient and fit to be done in the present posture of our affairs; many of our friends are out of town, but I expect some of them soon, particularly, Lord Milton, who drank tea with me, and sat a long time with me before he went to Kintire or Inverara, and shewed me the
most

most cordial affection and friendship that ever he had done in his life.

The children, I bless God, enjoy perfect good health, and are in good spirits; they are mightily cared for here; little Archie is thought very like you.

Lady Mary Hamilton enquires always very kindly after you, she's much your humble servant, as Mr. Hamilton is. I'm mighty well lodged, and commodiously, at Mrs. Maitland's house in Bishop's Land, and at a pretty easy rate, it being the vacance.

Countess of Stair, and Mrs. Primrose enquired most obligingly for you. Mrs. Hewit sends you her blessing, and kind compliments. Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart, I hope my next shall be fuller of matter; in the mean time, I am, and ever shall be most tenderly and affectionately yours,

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XLI.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Edinburgh, Sept. 20. 1752, N. S.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

THIS is the fourth letter I have wrote to you since I came here, I hope they're come safe to your hands; I would have wrote oftener, as it is the greatest pleasure I can have at so great a distance from you; but all my friends and acquaintances are in the country, except a very few, so that my affairs go at present but slowly on, which makes me write the seldom, having nothing as yet material to acquaint you of; I think your letters come slowly on too; these three posts I have been looking for that satisfaction, but it is not yet come; and I have answered each of your letters punctually, that I have received since I came to Scotland.

I have yet had no answer to the letter I wrote immediately on my arrival here, to a person who is near my brother's person, in order to be shewn to him: I therefore design to write directly to my brother himself, to see what effects that may have. I have not yet got an answer to the letter I

wrote to Mrs. Duncan of Lundie, I expect it every day: I much wish to know what influence yours has had on your brother. Last Sunday I went to see your cousin Mrs. Betty Lelly, she received me with the utmost kindness, and spoke of you in the most obliging and affectionate manner; she would have prevented my waiting on her, but just after my coming here, her sister Lady Balgowan died.

This day Archie and Sholto are to begin to learn to read by one Warden, recommended by the Countess of Stair as one that teaches well, and brings children forward in a short time. I told them I was writing to you, and they both prayed me to give their duty to their papa.

I din'd last Monday with Mr. Ker*, our parliament man, he's married to my cousin Betty Kerr; you was kindly remembered by them, and your health, and the childrens, drunk with great marks of affection. I intend to write again by Saturday's post; in mean time, I must bid you, dear Mr. Stewart, adieu. I am, with the utmost affection, yours,

J. D. S.

* Mr. James Ker, an eminent jeweller, formerly member of parliament for the city of Edinburgh, and much in the confidence of the late Mr. Pelham.

L E T T E R XLII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I'M not a little uneasy that you're quite out of money. I am at present making it my endeavour to purchase a small sum, which, if I succeed, which I hope I shall, you shall soon share of it. In the mean time, my heart is full of the warmest gratitude to that good man, your faithful friend, Capt. Cockburn, for his uncommon friendship and civilities to you; and I flatter myself, that you and I shall have it in our power, and that soon too, to shew him the sense we have of his great goodness. Tho' such kind offices, as his has been to you these many months past, are hardly possible ever to be repaid, offer him my grateful and regardful compliments.

I have wrote a most affectionate, and even a most submissive letter last Thursday to my brother; what the result may be, I cannot yet determine; when I can learn, you shall be informed: in the mean time, keep up your spirits, and trust in God's great goodness, as I do; and, as I am, be intirely easy and happy. I really am strongly
impressed,

impressed, that we shall soon get some deliverance out of our present calamitous state; but whatever happens, I am wholly resigned and satisfied, since you are in good health, as I and our little ones are. What cause have we then to grieve? Put that far from you, I beseech you, dear Mr. Stewart.

Pray don't be discouraged that you are so long of hearing from Lundie; he is not yet arriv'd, and I'm afraid his affairs in Ireland have been more troublesome than he expected, and to have detained him long; but I hope they'll come out well at last: I can't but interest myself in that good man's concerns; and his wife too has been my long tried, constant friend. Mrs. Hewit sends you her best compliments and good wishes. She and I, and the children, are happy in being here, out of the smoke of the town. All my regret is, that you are not here, which would make every thing to a wish: but we'll meet when Heaven pleases, and that's enough. Poor Mrs. Hewit has almost as much anxiety for that happy event as I have. Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart. I ever am, in the tenderest manner, yours.

J. D. STEWART.

Dr. Clerk* is as kind as ever, but is much in the country, having few patients in town. You may judge the children's indisposition and my own were very slight, when I neither called Clerk nor Eccles; but Mr. Eccles has, since my arrival, come every day to see me; never was there a kinder, nor a better man. Also, Dr. Dundas is excessively kind and obliging; inquired in the kindest manner for you, and ordered a medicine for me when I was a little ill; comes constantly to see me, but will take no money. Eccles too asks after you in the most obliging way.

* A very eminent physician at Edinburgh, and the constant companion of all the men of rank in his time who were distinguished for their learning or their wit and humour. He had a singularly good memory and an inexhaustible fund of entertaining stories, which he used to tell with a shrewd gravity which gave them a high relish. After a very long and successful practice he dropt off in a fresh old age, while he was reading his favourite Horace.

L E T T E R XLIII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Hope-Park, 15th November, 1752.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I Received your letter last Tuesday, and would have answered it the very next post, if I had had any thing material or mighty satisfactory to say; but as that does not happen to be the present case, (but in due time it will come) I delayed writing till this post, last week the holy sacrament being given in Edinburgh, in all the churches, which is just in my neighbourhood.

It grieves me beyond measure, dear Mr. Stewart, that you're so low in money, and that I have as yet got none to send you; especially, as the time of your getting some liberty is so near approaching. I'm truly disquieted about this, but to help it is at present entirely out of my power. However, I'm not idle in endeavouring to raise a small sum, (a great one is impracticable) and when I'm happy enough to accomplish it, you shall immediately share in whatever it is. In the mean time, keep up your spirits, which your letter assures me you do, which charms me, as all of it does, save that part relating to money matters.

As

As to your anxiety about my living in the country, imputing it entirely to oeconomy, which I do assure you is the least consideration ; my dear children's and my own health being the chief motive that made me leave Edinburgh, neither they nor I agreeing with the place. We were truly indisposed almost all the while we were in town ; and Sholto had a little fever upon him when I brought him here : he is now, I bless God, very well and hearty ; but it was full time to leave a place that impaired our health ; but for all that, I made no great haste to leave it, being eight weeks in town, lodging in the best house in it in Bishop's Land, where I saw all my friends and acquaintances that were then in town ; nor will they grudge to step a quarter of a mile out of it to see me here, and when I choose to wait on them, a chair can carry me in five minutes.

I hope, after reading these reasons, you'll be persuaded that it is best for me to live in the country : so, pray be satisfied and easy as to that article.

Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart, be happy and easy in your present circumstances ; for Providence will, I trust, deliver us out of our distresses in due time. Depend on this, and on the most tender affection and love of your

J. D. S.

Archy and Sholto send you their humble duty. They speak frequently of you, and are perpetually writing letters to you, especially Archy, it is his chief employment.

Mrs. Nelly, in the most affectionate manner, sends you her best compliments; she longs much to see you, and if her prayers and mine are heard, you'll soon be here.

L E T T E R XLIV.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Hope-Park, 18th November 1752.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I Received the pleasure of your letter of the 11th yesterday, in which you complain of my being become mighty lazy. I confess, I did not write for six days, but that was occasioned by the holy sacrament's being given in all the churches of Edinburgh, which solemnity I had the honour to attend; so my not writing proceeded from no unkindness nor carelessness about you, dear Mr. Stewart; and pray observe my present punctuality in answering your last letter, this being the day after I received it.

I went to the assembly this last Thursday, the King's birth-day being solemnized here on that day, because the week before was set apart on account of the holy sacrament. I deal not much in public diversions, it would ill become me as you're in confinement; but our dear little ones and I as well as you, are under such great obligations to his Majesty, that I thought it my indispensable duty to be present on the

day that was appointed for solemnizing his birth-day, that I might by that demonstration, express publicly to the world, the sense I have of his Majesty's great goodness to me and mine; and for that reason, I took the children along with me; and I cannot really express the warm and kind reception we met with from the whole assembly, which was extremely crowded and full of company. Archy and Sholto behaved to a wonder, and were carested beyond measure. I thought the people would have eat them up; and very many that I did not know, complimented me upon their account, and upon my being returned to my own country; so that I wanted nothing to make me perfectly happy on this occasion, but your being there to share in my satisfaction, and so to make it compleat.

I made Mr. Linn of Gorgie introduce me to my Lord Advocate's Lady, who was directress that night; she received my compliments better than I deserved. The advocate is one of my best friends. I'm under great obligations to him, which I'm fond of, as I look upon him as a very valuable man, as well as a person of weight and greatly esteemed. Lord Home, Lord Napier and Mr. Linn, and many others, asked kindly for you; so you see you're not forgot here.

O

Take

Take no care about my managing material matters in a right manner: my submissions to my brother, and all the affectionate demonstrations I can possibly show him, are right to be done. These cannot, and shall not hurt my interest, but promote it.

I'm excessively sorry that our good friend Captain Cockburn has been so ill: I hope to hear by your next, that his health is entirely restored: he has my best wishes for that, and for every thing else that may be agreeable to him. Offer him my best compliments, and tell him from me, he has the prayers of all the ministers in our churches every Sabbath day, which are, that God may spare all useful valuable lives: without any flattery, he is amongst that number.

I have not yet got the money borrowed, but am doing my endeavour for that purpose. It grieves me to think how you are put to it at present. May God in his great mercy send us relief.

Mrs. Nelly offers you her most affectionate compliments, Archy his humble duty, but Sholto is not at leisure to send you any, he did in my last. He is, blessed be God, quite well again, as we are all.

Pray take care of yourself, and keep up
your

your spirits ; all will be well if we submit and have patience.

This is a long letter I'm sure, but very undistinctly wrote. Excuse it, dear Mr. Stewart, and accept of my best wishes, and of the tenderest and affectionate regard of your

J. DOUGLAS STEWART,

L E T T E R XLV.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Hope-Park, November 28th, 1752.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I FIND it a matter more difficult than I imagined, the raising any money here; though but a very small sum I demanded, it has not yet been in my power to procure it, but I am still in hopes to succeed. In the mean time, I am much perplexed and uneasy with this disappointment, chiefly on your account, too well knowing how much you want a supply. But pray don't be discouraged, dear Mr. Stewart, at these rubs, and little strokes of ill-fortune; all will, I hope, go well with us, if we behave with patience and resignation to the wise Disposer and Orderer of all things. It is our interest as well as duty in all circumstances, and in all situations, to have such a submissive disposition of mind to the Almighty power, who governs all affairs, and who can do no wrong.

Dr. Clerk was here the other morning. He's just in his usual friendly way to me, and likewise in regard to you, speaking a great deal of you with the greatest friendship imaginable.

Give my best compliments to our valuable friend Captain Cockburn and to Mr. Mackercher. I hope the Captain's health is perfectly restored, and that Mr. Mackercher's affairs are going on in a manner that all good people wishes.

We are well here, blessed be God, and our dear little ones in good health and spirits; they both send you their humble duty, and Mrs. Nelly her most affectionate compliments. Adieu, dear Mr. Stewart. Keep up your spirits; that and your health is my greatest concern; while these are in good condition, nothing can disquiet your ever tenderly affectionate

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

L E T T E R XLVI.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Hope-Park, 5th December 1752.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I Received the pleasure of your welcome letter of the 25th of November last Thursday, some part of which was mighty agreeable; that of your assuring me that you are in perfect health and in good spirits, is beyond all the happiness any thing in this world can possibly bestow on me.

Upon the Dutches of Hamilton's coming to town, I went to pay her a visit, but was refused access, the Duke having wrote to my brother to demand of him, in case I offered a visit to the Dutches, whether it would be agreeable to the Duke of Douglas, that it should be accepted or not: in answer to which, my brother wrote, that he by no means pretended to dictate or lay down rules to the Duke of Hamilton; but since he intended never to see his sister, he would take it well and kindly, if Hamilton did not see her: upon which account my visit was not received. This Dr. Clerk came out here th' other day and told me, having read my brother's letter to Hamilton, who has gained no honour nor credit by this low sycophant-
ing

ing procedure; on the contrary, all the good and disinterested wise part of mankind look upon him with abhorrence and detestation, reckoning him the meanest, as well as wickedest of mortals, who, by such unjust practices, endeavours to widen the breach between a brother and a sister; and by that means, to see, if possible, to place himself in the sister's room, who is undoubtedly the lawful heir. Pray don't let this piece of news trouble you: the flattery is so gross, I hope it will rather be of service than any hurt to me; it only shows a very mean bad heart, of which there are too many at present in the world.

Adieu, ever yours,

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XLVII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Edinburgh, August 27th, 1752.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I HAD the pleasure to write to you the next day after my arrival here, and also to receive two letters from you, which gave me great comfort. I now more than ever feel the joy it gives me to hear from a friend from a far country, and am sure you'll give me that satisfaction, dear Mr. Stewart often, knowing your tendernefs and your punctualnefs, even when I was at a less distance. I have nothing as yet considerable to write to you from this: only I was received, and our dear little ones, by all my relations and acquaintances now in town, with great marks of friendship and affection. Lord Milton was remarkably friendly and kind, came immediately to see me, though in a great hurry preparing to go to Inverara to the Duke of Argyle, who is at present there. He appeared mighty fond of the children, who behaved extremely well, and with great vivacity and spirit.

I shall once or twice a-week write, and let you know how matters go. In the
mean

mean time, dear Mr. Stewart, be perfectly easy, and keep up your spirits, for all will be well, and my happiness depends upon your ease of mind.

Mr. Hamilton and Lady Mary supp'd with me th' other night; they spoke with a great deal of esteem of you, and drank your health with much cordial affection.

The children are perfectly well, I bless God.

I ever am yours.

J. D. S.

L E T T E R XLVIII.

From Lady JANE DOUGLAS to —.

S I R,

I Received the favour of both your letters: that just on my arrival in Edinburgh, and the other some weeks ago. It gives me inexpressible pain, to find by them, that my brother continues still inflexible; nay, seems to be more than ever incensed against me, notwithstanding that I have made him all the submissions, by writing in the most humble, as well as affectionate manner, and in giving up my papers, which were of great consequence and advantage to me to have kept; yet, to please him, I have resigned them, without being compelled by any other motive, than my inclination to do every thing that might contribute to his satisfaction, if happily, by these concessions, I might gain back his favour again, which is all my desire, and the utmost of my wishes. Let him give his riches to whom he pleases, even to those that meanly and dishonourably court him for it,—amazing that he does not see through their selfish views, so manifest to all the world besides, and which every wise and honest man have in the utmost abhorrence

and detestation ! I pray God to open his eyes, and to pardon those that are going on in such dishonest and wicked practices : they are as much my brother's enemies as mine, who conduct themselves in this manner.

I must acquaint you with a pretty odd procedure in Mr. Archibald Stuart*. I gave him my papers to deliver to my brother : Mr. Stuart received them from my hands with remarkable transports of joy : a very strange demonstration to shew before me, who must suffer so much in my interest by delivering them up. But this is the time of my suffering all kinds of distresses, even insults too.

Mr. Stuart promised, without my desiring it of him, to use his warmest endeavours to persuade my brother to restore to me the 30,000 merks which he had formerly made me a present of, which paper I gave up amongst the rest. He also assured me he would do all in his power to incline my brother to restore back the 300 l. withheld these few years past. I thanked Mr. Stuart for these fair promises, and desired him to press that matter no farther than he could do it safely for himself, not to incur my brother's displeasure by any act of friend-

* Mr. Archibald Stuart, father to Mr. Andrew Stuart, agent for Duke Hamilton in the Douglas cause.

ship done to me; begged him to make me a report how things went, at his return from Douglas-castle; but, so far from complying with that just and reasonable request, he has never once come near me, nor sent me one single line, tho' I reposed so much trust in him as to give him my papers to deliver to my brother, which I gave to Stuart on the 27th of October, and now it is the 8th of December. I am not ready to suspect, or to put bad constructions upon any person's way of acting; but this conduct of Stuart's must occasion various thoughts. When I enquire what this gentleman is about, that occupies him so much, that he does not find time to behave with common civility and decency where it is due, the answer I receive is, he is constantly down in the Abbey, consulting and contriving matters with the Duke of Hamilton, whose behaviour to me I suppose you are not ignorant of; but in case you should, I shall here give you a description of it. Upon the Dutches of Hamilton's coming to town, I attempted to pay her a visit, but was refused access, which surprised me a good deal, and yet more, when a gentleman, some time after, came and told me, the reason of it was, that the Duke of Hamilton had wrote to my brother, demanding of him in what manner he should behave,

in

in case the Duke of Douglas's sister were to offer a visit to the Dutchess of Hamilton; to this letter my brother's answer was, that he did not pretend to dictate to the Duke of Hamilton, but as he resolved never to see his sister, he would take it well and kindly, if the Duke of Hamilton did not see her. This letter of my brother's Duke Hamilton shewed the gentleman who told me what passed, which, amongst other things, this noble Duke said, it was very strange that Lady Jane should endeavour to force a visit where it could do no service to her, and a great deal of hurt to him.—Such sentiments!—The reason why Lady Jane honoured the Dutchess of Hamilton with a visit was, because she could not imagine the Duke, her spouse, was half so mean and wicked as he has showed himself to be, nor that the Duke of Douglas was so weak and easily imposed upon. My brother little imagines that he is the dupe in this matter, and the subject of Duke Hamilton's, and all his little creatures derision, while all the good and wise part of mankind grieve and lament to see the head of such an ancient and noble house fallen so low.

Let me know what you think of Stuart's conduct.—If any has represented me in a bad light to my brother, it is hard he won't permit me to clear myself, which I could easily

easily

easily do, would he but allow me to be so happy as to see him, or to read my letters. I would offer him here my most respectful and most affectionate compliments; but, perhaps, you dare not venture to own I have wrote to you; and yet he can't be angry that I have forced a letter upon you. Let him then know that I love and regard him, notwithstanding the manner he has chosen to act towards me.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

L E T T E R XLIX.

Mrs. CARSE to Lady JANE DOUGLAS.

MADAM,

TIS now a very long time since I gave your Ladyship the trouble of a line from me, and your silence may sufficiently reprove and forbid my presuming to trouble you any more that way; but being strongly attached to your interest, I can't forbear letting you know how active your enemies are against you; especially, as I'm perswaded your great genius and address may furnish you with ways and means to disappoint your enemies.

Some time ago, I had it from a good hand, that a certain elevated foolish woman, viz. Archibald Stewart's wife, as she was holding out her throng of business, and having nobody to assist her, as Mr. Stewart had five clerks away with him, it was asked her, where? she answered, To Douglas-Castle, he having a very great deal of business there; and very soon, said she, that great and antient house, the brag of the world, will be quite extinct. How, says the person she talked to, has not Lady Jane two fine sons? Ha, says she, they'll never be owned by his Grace, and all that's possible to

to be done against her and hers, will soon be put in execution, and a great deal to this purpose. Now, Madam, I don't in the least question many people's being very active against your Ladyship, and against the interest of that illustrious house; but I'm very hopeful, his Grace won't be their dupe. I assure your Ladyship, I believe White is no friend to your interest, nor for the perpetuating of the very antient and illustrious house. For I own to you, upon the hearing of that silly, lifted-up woman's idle clatter, I very rashly took upon me, and wrote to his Grace, and told him very freely the whole story, and the author; I also told him, that these boys was an evidence, that a good Providence was taking care to keep a stem of it alive; that there was none upon earth that was come of my Lord Marquis his father, or the good Earl Angus, his grandfather, but these two boys, after his Grace and sister; it wholly depended upon him to strengthen their right, and if he did not, or did any thing against them, it would be the foulest blot in his character; a good deal more I said very plainly, but in a coaxing way. I thought it the best way to get it put in his hand, to give it to Thomas Trotter, who would put it in Stockbrig's hand; and so I desired Mr. Trotter afterwards to inquire at White if
 he

he knew how his Grace took it. But Mr. Trotter said, that he was afraid to inquire, for my Lord Duke was so exceedingly uneasy at the hearing of your name, that it put him in a sweat, or made him like to faint; but that is so far an untruth, that to Charles Douglas, who officiates for Mr. Carse, he spoke of your name several times, and of the Colonel's, as I wrote Mrs. Hewit. And I beg pardon for troubling you with this long story, and did not rather write it to Mrs. Hewit; but indeed I durst not put it in any hands but your Ladyship's, who, I hope, will keep it entirely to yourself; for if it should take the least air, my speaking against Stewart's wife, it might make them act against me, as you know their connection with Major Cochrane*; but I've some apprehensions White has not delivered my letter; I shall soon search and find it out. I am, &c.

* Major Cochrane, now Earl of Dundonald, married a daughter of Mr. Archibald Stewart, she being a great beauty.

L E T T E R L.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to* Mr. STEWART.

Hope-Park, 15 Dec. 1752.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I Received the pleasure of your letter last night: what you say of your being in great spirits gave me excessive joy and satisfaction. May you ever be so, and I shall ever be satisfied and happy.

Archy and Sholto are very well; they're often speaking of you. How happy would you make us all here, were I not afraid, that by the unfortunate situation of my affairs, I might be the cause of exposing you to danger.

I'm grieved beyond expression, that at this time it is not in my power to raise any money; but if you can at present, get a supply sufficient to bring you down, and to free my things lying out, I think I shall be able in a very few months to raise a little money, and by that means make you a return.

L E T T E R L I.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to* Mr. STEWART.

Hope-Park, 6 February, 1753.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

WITH the greatest pleasure I received your two letters, the one the 20th, the other the 30th January; particularly the last, which I got yesterday; you seem in it to abound in spirits, notwithstanding the many disappointments you have lately met with in money-matters, and even though you cannot yet be certain, that the raising the sum necessary for you can be obtained, this fortitude and resolution of yours, amidst all your own and my difficulties, gives me utmost joy and satisfaction; and to transfer what will support and augment your good spirits, I here assure you, that it will be in my power, please God, against the beginning of the month of April, so far to make you easy, as to free you of all your small debts in London; so that, though your own money-scheme should fail, let this assurance I have given you, serve to keep you from being discouraged.

Why are you displeased, that I regret, and am grieved, that I have brought you

into incumbrances? I well know your good generous heart, and that such things only give you pain on my account; and won't you then allow me so far to resemble you, as to suffer, when I am in this matter the occasion of your suffering?

I'm concerned for your deafness; pray take care to keep very warm in this severe cold weather.

Nothing passes in these parts worthy your hearing; the best news I have to write is, that dear little Archy and Sholto are in good health and perfect good spirits. They are often speaking of you.

L E T T E R LII.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Mr. STEWART.

Thursday, Hope-Park, Feb. 22, 1753.

DEAR MR. STEWART,

I Received your welcome letter this last Tuesday, and I answer it the immediate post following, that I may occasion, dear Mr. Stewart, no more anxious fears, by not being sometimes quite so punctual as I ought to be. Never blame me after this for my anxieties, since you find how impossible it is altogether to avoid them; but my uneasinesses are only in regard to those I love, and am interested in, in which number you are my chief and dearest concern. As to other incidents in human life which fall out to every body, sometimes prosperously, sometimes adverse, these sit mighty easy upon me, as I am sure a wise hand, and a hand full of mercy, disposes of all our fates, and orders every thing for the best, so I am always satisfied and pleased.

At the same time I received your letter last Tuesday, I got one from Lady Lundie, which I inclose here. You'll see by it that it is not want of friendship, kindness, nor even civility, that occasions her and her husband's long silence, but a certain auk-

ward ill-judged fear that a great many people have upon their spirits, when they have no good news to tell, little knowing that your spirits and mine are able, by the supporting goodness of Almighty God, to bear bad tidings.

Lady Lundie's advice to me is no doubt well meant, and with good will to us. I don't know how you may relish it, but I intend to put it in practice in a few days; I don't see any mighty act of condescension in one lady's writing to another; besides, I can stoop at any time to serve you.

I'm sorry you are still disappointed in raising the money so necessary for you; but am still hopeful you shall obtain it at last. It grieves me that it is not in my power to assist you.

I shall be more punctual and frequent in my letters hereafter, and I beg you to write as often as you can.

Archie and Sholto are very well, which makes me happy, as I'm sure it will make you; and I am in good health and in good spirits, as, I hope in God, you continue to be, the thoughts of which is my best cordial, and a rich one too, though in other things not in mighty affluence; but I trust in God's goodness, that you and I shall be provided in what is necessary to make us live easily, though not in great wealth.

Lady

Lady Mary Hamilton, Marquis Lothian's
sister, begg'd me to send you her affec-
tionate compliments. Good Mr. Gustard
the minister, who I see often, remembers
you always in the kindest manner.

I ever am most affectionately yours,

J. D. S.

L E T T E R LIII.

*Lady JANE DOUGLAS to Lady MARY
MENZIES*.*

FEW things could have been more agreeable than my dear Lady Mary's letter, which I had the honour to receive last week. It belongs to me, Madam, to make apology for the fault of not writing sooner, which you so obligingly charge yourself with; and I did indeed, immediately on my arrival in Scotland, intend to have wrote to your Ladyship; but various things came in the way (not mighty delightful) which prevented my having that agreeable employment; the warm expressions you honour me with of your continued friendship, give me a satisfaction more easy to be imagined than expressed; only be assured I prize the favour much, and value myself upon it.

It gives me great pleasure to think how happy my dear Lady Mary has been these few months past in the company of her brother, and such a brother as Mr. Mackenzie †

* Lady Mary Menzies, sister to the Earl of Bute, and lady of Sir Robert Menzies, Baronet.

† Mr. Mackenzie, the Hon. James Stuart Mackenzie, Esq; Lord Privy Seal for Scotland.

is I lov'd when a child, I admire him now, and I pay him no compliment (worth can't be complimented) when I say he's the agreeablest and finest young gentleman our country can boast of at present. Amiable Lady Betty* I likewise esteem much; and, to show that I am not unacquainted with her merit, I think she deserves Mr. Mackenzie, which is to say a great deal. Your Ladyship has been so happy part of last, and beginning of this new-styled year in their society, that I can only wish you many, very many such years of satisfaction, with every other joy your heart can further desire.

The town is mighty gay, I'm told. But I can give no account of its entertainments, going to none of them, save to one assembly several weeks ago, appointed to solemnize King George's birth-day; I thought it my duty to appear on that occasion to testify my regard and gratitude to my royal benefactor, who is the only crowned head I ever was personally under any obligation to.

The account your Ladyship gives of my dear young Mr. Stewart†, and his family, gives me great pleasure. I have from all

* Lady Betty Mackenzie, daughter of the illustrious John Duke of Argyll and Greenwich, and lady of the Hon. James Stuart Mackenzie, Esq;

† Mr. Stewart, son to the late Sir John Stewart by a former marriage, and now Sir John Stewart.

hands heard the best character of them, and of Bellachin his lady, and their whole family; and your Ladyship's good opinion of them, convinces me, that all I hear to their advantage is true. I saw Mr. Jacky several times six years ago, and I did think him a very fine and handsome youth; my little Archy is reckoned by several people to resemble him much, which I take as a compliment to my little man. Mr. Stewart, whose affairs did not permit him to come to Scotland along with me, has the honour to be, I do assure my dear Lady Mary, her devoted humble servant, and her great admirer, as well as a sincere friend and servant to Sir Robert.

Lady Grace Campbell's * late lying in, and my perplexed affairs, has prevented my waiting upon her Ladyship as yet; but I intend to do myself that honour soon.

If I could expect to see my dearest Lady Mary in Edinburgh while I remain here, it would give me inexpressible satisfaction; but it is a happiness I dare not flatter myself with. My stay here is uncertain, having thoughts of going to the north of England; but before I leave these parts, I shall

* Lady Grace Campbell, sister to the Earl of Bute, and lady of John Campbell, Esq; judge in the court of session, by the title of Lord Stonefield.

certainly

certainly give your Ladyship notice. Adieu,
my dear Madam. Favour me always with
your friendship, which I deserve, for this
one reason, that I have the honour to be,
with the most perfect esteem and regard,
your Ladyship's most obedient humble ser-
vant, and most affectionate cousin,

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

Hope-Park, near Edin.

23d Jan. 1753.

I offer my best compliments to Sir Robert
Menzies; I beg your Ladyship will like-
ways make them acceptable to Mr. Mac-
kenzie and Lady Betty. Your old friend
Mrs. Hewit is just as much your Ladyship's
devoted servant as ever, and begs to be
most kindly remembered to you, Madam,
and her good friend Sir Robert. Likewise,
she begs leave to offer her compliments to
her charming favourite Mr. Mackenzie,
whom she loves most tenderly.

L E T T E R LIV.

Lady JANE DOUGLAS *to the Duke of*
DOUGLAS.

DEAR BROTHER,

I CAME down from London, on purpose to wait upon, and pay my dutiful respects to you, which I wrote, and acquainted your Grace of, on my first arrival in Edinburgh. I was not honoured with any answer; notwithstanding, I resolved to make offer of a visit to your Grace, but was detained, by various people industriously bringing it to my ears, that such an attempt would incur your displeasure, and give you a great deal of uneasiness. Upon which I, with much regret, laid aside what above all things I wish'd, and was ambitious to have performed; but now, that I am under a necessity to go into England, to seek out a cheap place to live in, I could not think of leaving this country, without making an effort to see you once before I die, to vindicate the cruel, false aspersions that my enemies, wicked and designing people, have as unjustly, as cruelly spoke against me, and which, I am informed, have reached your ears, and that your Grace gives credit

dit to them, the thoughts of which pierces my heart, and gives me inexpressible anguish. What then must my sorrow be, and what an additional torment do I now feel, when in your house, with my children, come to throw ourselves at your feet, we are debarred access to your presence! Recal that cruel sentence, I beseech you, if you don't intend to render me all my life miserable, and to shorten it too, which must be the case; for it is impossible to live any time with a load of such exquisite grief as mine is; all I beg is to be permitted to speak but a few moments to your Grace, and if I don't, to your own conviction, clear up my injured innocence, inflict what punishment you please upon me, I shall receive it willingly, and shall think I deserve your utmost rigour, if I cannot justify myself fully of all that is basely and falsely laid to my charge. In hopes that your Grace will, with great goodness and humanity, allow this my petition to take place in your heart, and you will call me back again, I shall remain this day, and the following night, in Douglas town.

The children, poor babies, have never yet done any fault, may I not then plead for their being admitted and allowed to see you, and to kiss your hands. The youngest, Sholto, is thought to resemble you much
when

when you were a child; and Archie is thought by a great many to have the honour too of resembling you much when you became a man.

I am, dear brother,

Your ever affectionate sister,

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART*.

* This letter was written in consequence of that most interesting scene described in *DORANDO, A Spanish Tale*.

L E T T E R LV.

From Dr. ECCLES to Mr. STEWART.*

S I R,

Edinburgh, Nov. 21, 1753.

WITH very great grief and concern I take this opportunity to inform you, that Lady Jane Douglas Stewart died this day at noon, very much emaciated and decayed. She bore her sickness with Christian patience and resignation, accompanied with that remarkable sweetness of temper, and affable behaviour, so natural to her.

Your son is a very fine child, is thriving and healthy. I pray God may preserve him. Poor Mrs. Hewit is very much distressed and grieved.—God support you under this heavy affliction.

• Dr. Eccles, an ingenious physician at Edinburgh.

L E T T E R LVI.

From Mr. COLVILL to Mr. STEWART.*

S I R,

Edinburgh, 24 Nov. 1753.

I AM obliged to write you this melancholy letter, with the deepest grief and concern imaginable, for the death of that dear angel, Lady Jane, who departed this life the 22d instant, at twelve o'clock forenoon. Poor Mrs. Hewit is in the greatest affliction that can be; she is neither capable of writing nor speaking to any body, only begs of you, for dear Archy's sake and her's, you'll take care of your own health and preservation. She feels your distress in the most tender way; but all the comfort she can give you is, that while dear Lady Jane was alive, nothing was wanting that either gave her ease or satisfaction; no body durst venture to write you the situation she was in; she absolutely discharged it. There is an express gone away to the Duke to see what he will do; however, whether he will do or not, every thing shall be done about her like herself. Mrs. Hewit has had cre-

* Mr. Walter Colvill, baker in Edinburgh, and one of the macers of the court of Session, a sensible worthy man, and much attached to Lady Jane Douglas.

dit

dit all along to support her, and still will for what is necessary ; therefore, she begs you'll let nothing of that trouble you ; and when all is over, and she gets herself composed, she will give you a full account. Poor woman, she is left at present with a few shillings in her pocket ; but her only lamentation and cry is for you.

The poor dear child is at present very well, and she has just given orders for his mournings.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R LVII.

From Mr. GUSTARD to Mr. STEWART.

S I R, Edinburgh, Nov. 24, 1753.

I Wou'd been sorry to have been the first to give you the melancholy news of your worthy Lady's death. I know you have been prepared to hear it.

You were amongst the happiest of men, to be matched with such a one, not only for her quality but qualifications: she excelled the most of her sex. But as she's gone and shines no more in this world, good reason we have to hope, she has made a happy change, where all sorrow and sighing fly away. She bore her affliction with great patience and resignation to the holy disposing will of God. She had her noble spirit till near her very last.

Mrs. Hewit, a friend indeed, will, no doubt, give you a particular account afterwards of her sickness, and manner of dying. I pity you, Sir, and your child, under such a loss and shocking trial. But this is the doing of the Lord; therefore we ought to be dumb, not opening our mouth, because He did it. God is righteous in all His doings, but we have sinned and deserve the worst we can meet with. May

we

we be awakened to consider our ways, and to turn to him that smiteth, and who alone can heal. Peace with God through Christ, is the best cordial under trouble, and at a dying hour.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R LVIII.

Sir JOHN STEWART to Lady JANE
DOUGLAS.

DEAREST LADY JANE,

AS I have had such proofs of your disinterested and grand sentiments, I hope now that hard (and I must think) undeserved fate, has done its worst. I hope the same constancy of mind, with your christian resignation and philosophy, will support your magnanimity in this trying stroke of all these virtues summed up: my dearest lady, please remember it is no fault to be poor; I would choose to be honourably so, rather than purchase riches at the expence of it. This cloud will soon disperse, we have reason to hope, and will prove but a whet, to make us relish the more, better times when God pleases to send them. I am intirely resigned to his will, and can bear every cross with patience, but being kept from the pleasure and happiness of being with you; and even in that, I am supported by hopes that our separation can be of no long continuance, which I have reason to expect from many different views, any one of which will put an end to the only misfortune I regret, providing you are easy till that happy period.

L E T T E R LIX.

Sir JOHN STEWART *to* Lady JANE
DOUGLAS.

MY DEAREST LADY JANE,

YOUR delicateſs this morning was well, and kindly meant, but, if I may ſay it, ſomewhat miſtaken; for, dear Madam, as I could not but perceive an uncommon concern and grief, with an effort to conceal it, your refuſing to tell me the deplorable cauſe, made me imagine it proceeded from ſomething ſtill more fatal (if any thing can be more ſo) than even the death of our eſtimable, and every way valuable Lord Blantyre, in whom our country ſuffers irreparably, in ~~the~~ moſt hopeful of our youth, endued with every good and ſhining quality, without the leaſt tincture of vice. But D. L. J. to what purpoſe your ſo exceſſive grief, that to your friends, and even to his, rather increaſes than diminiſhes the miſfortune; ſhould it impair the health of one who had ſo juſt a value for his uncommon merit? Beſides, Madam, you will give me leave to remind you, that it is upon ſuch extraordinary occaſions you are to
practiſe

practise the christian resignation due to Providence, which orders every thing for the best. As far as my poor view can see, he must die, or the world reform, for he was really unfit to live in such an age as ours is; but I shall not pretend to moralize further (to one knows so much better what the loss is, and how it should be bore) than by this small word of comfort, he has left no one such behind him that I know of; this reflection should comfort even his afflicted mother, how much more every other distant relation and friend; it does me, who never have felt near so much, but for poor dear Lord Crawford; these two nonpareils are taken away, our best friends, and most valuable acquaintances, (hard strokes!) But please remember good Providence raises new friends, and though the best are carried away, the dross and dregs which remain flourishes but for a while, to do as much hurt, as the heaven-born geniuses of these departed friends was disposed to do good.

They shall likewise have a period, and heighten the merit and character of the worthy, by the contrast of their characters, to the immortal honour of the former. So, my dearest Lady Jane, do not give way to immoderate grief on this melancholy occasion,

caſion, but muſter up philoſophy and religion to your quiet and comfort, which, I aſſure your Ladyſhip, is the endeavour of your adviſer and affectionate humble ſervant,

JO. STEWART.

Monday, 12 at night.

L E T T E R LX.

Sir JOHN STEWART to Lady JANE
DOUGLAS.

MY DEAREST ANGEL,

IN the hurry I was put in writing my^e last, or rather the postscript to it, I had not time to make answer to any one thing contained in yours, which gave me much pleasure, and at the same time, much pain; for, my dearest Lady Jane, at the same time you tell me the dear little men are recovered of their cold, and are going every day to school, I learn the distress you have been in.

My disappointments in not hearing from Lundie, though much depends on it, is nothing, in comparison with the anxious distress your precarious state of health puts me in; so, for heaven's sake, let me have the cordial of knowing you are well, for every thing without that is nothing.

I shall direct your letters for the future as you desire; and, if I had not been a blockhead, might have understood it sooner; but knowing that, your Ladyship should have been more explicite.

I know not what I should have done for many months past, but for my friend Cap-
tain

tain Cockburn, who has supplied me every way, besides eating regularly with him; I hope I shall soon have it in my power to make some return, which is not an easy matter, to such favours, considering every thing. I am surprised, that in speaking of your indisposition, and that of the dear boys, it did not lead you naturally to say something of our friend Dr. Clark; sure he continues his allegiance to his Princess. I am glad to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Hepburn are so well in looks, and so forth. They will bring Balfour, who your Ladyship will find a very entertaining oddity, droll flights very uncommon, and sings very genteelly, when in the humour of it, which is but sometimes.

I left off till last night's post arrived, in great hopes of letters by it, no; well, Wednesday may bring me out of my anxious suspense; I never think it can be longer deferred than the first post from my last disappointment.

I ever am,

My dear Lady Jane,

Your affectionate humble servant,

JO. STEWART.

T

L E T T E R LXI.

Sir JOHN STEWART *to* Lady JANE
DOUGLAS.

MY DEAREST LADY JANE,

YOUR kind letter, of the 13th instant, came not to hand till yesterday, I know not by what accident; God be blessed it confirms your health's being better and better. Riding is certainly very proper, and indeed all exercise, so that it is not over fatiguing. I must beg leave to remind my dear Lady Jane, now that her appetite and tone of stomach are recovered, to be careful not to eat up to what the stomach may crave, after so long abstinence, and to make that up by eating two or three times a-day; for I am convinced, that your former method of taking no breakfast or supper, but letting subsistence intirely depend on dinner, was too fatiguing to your stomach, and probably has been the occasion of your late terrible distress. Excuse this, D. L. J. You know I must play the physician sometimes, even when less concerned than in this case, where all that is dear to me is at stake. When you let Doctor Clark and Doctor Dundas know how you used to
fast

fast and eat, I am more than convinced, they will join in opinion even with a quack; for they have too good sense not to know, that one may reason justly in such a case, though not regularly bred to physic.

L E T T E R LXII.

Sir JOHN STEWART *to the Reverend*
Mr. GUSTARD *.

REVEREND SIR, London, May 15, 1753.

LADY Jane had the favour of your kind and most obliging letter yesterday, and returns thanks for your pious and wholesome advice under her present distress: she is as resigned to the unerring will of Providence, as christianity can make her, though nothing but time can bring us to think of our great loss of so lively and promising a child, without a painful concern, which is inseparable from the imperfection of nature.

She hopes and expects your prayers for the preservation of her only surviving comfort, and would have wrote you herself, but for the painful distress of mind she is under, which cannot but in some measure affect the health of one so delicate; however, I hope the spiritual souldagement she finds from the holy scriptures, and proper care, she will very soon be well.

* The Reverend Mr. Gustard, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and father to the ingenious Dr. Gustard at Bath.

Lady

Lady Jane begs you'll make her compliments, with hearty thanks, to Lady Mary Hamilton for her kind concern, and taking the trouble of acquainting her brother the Duke, by express, of the distress of his sister, by this unexpected severe stroke: God knows she had, poor Lady, enough to bear before, which she did patiently.

Lady Jane joins me in offering our compliments and best wishes to you and your family. I am, Sir, with esteem, your much obliged, and most humble servant,

JO. STEWART.

Mrs. Hewit offers her regardful compliments.

L E T T E R LXIII.

Sir JOHN STEWART *to Lady* SCHAW.

MADAM,

London, Jan. 10th, 1754.

BY a letter I had last post, I find that the letter I did myself the honour to write your Ladyship, 22d of last month, has not come to hand; I think myself most unlucky by that accident, which must make me appear ungrateful in your opinion, which I must have been very much, had I neglected thankfully to acknowledge the great obligation your Ladyship has laid me under, by the regardful manner you have choosed to prove your friendship to your dear deceased friend, Lady Jane Douglas Stewart.

Madam, your generous friendship I have the most grateful sense of, and shall fondly embrace all opportunities to shew with what high esteem and consideration I have the honour of being your Ladyship's much obliged and most obedient humble servant,

JO. STEWART.

P. S. On the cover I have sent a copy of that of 22d December, which it seems has miscarried.

COPY

COPY mentioned in the above Postscript.

MADAM,

London, Dec. 22, 1753.

THE kind concern and interest you have been pleased to take in the welfare of the dear infant who is now all that remains of your dear deceased friend Lady Jane Douglas Stewart, lays me under an obligation I want words to express, though I have the justest and most grateful sense of it. The unnatural indifference of dear Lady Jane's nearest relations, as well as the same in my brother on this melancholy occasion, (when my affairs happened to be in some disorder) heightens the favour of your Ladyship's kind interposing very much. I hope my affairs will soon take a turn that will prevent the continuance of the expence your Ladyship is now at, and shall think it my greatest happiness to have an opportunity of proving with what gratitude, high esteem and regard, I am your Ladyship's much obliged and most obedient humble servant.

L E T T E R LXIV.

Lady SCHAW to Mr. STEWART.

S I R,

I Received your letter of 10th January last some time ago, with the cover, and copy of the one you formerly wrote me, which I would have answered before this time, if I had not delayed it on purpose to see how your child agreed with his new quarters: I can now assure you, that not only I, but others who see him, think that he is improved both in growth and spirit; for, as he is a very sensible child, he was extremely cast down for the loss of his dear mother.

I cannot say but I was extremely surprized both with Lady Jane and your near relations neglecting a duty that I thought incumbent on them, in looking after the only remains of Lady Jane Douglas Stewart, who was intitled to a better fate in this world than it pleased God to give her; and that whatever disobligations they judged they had received from her Ladyship, still the child had no fault from them.

It was mere Providence that sent me to this place of the country when my Lady left this world for a better one, which gave me the opportunity to hear of the

destitute condition her poor infant was in, who I brought home, and is my intention to use him as my own child so long as I live; but as I am old, that probably will not be many years. I wish your affairs may be settled, so as to take care of your child at my death; till then, neither I, nor none of mine, have any demands upon you, nor none of yours; and I think myself happy to have it in my power to say, that it gives me the greatest satisfaction to show any part of the regard and honour had for the dear deceased.

Another reason for delaying the answer of your letter was, that I keep the child close for fear of the infection of the small-pox, as many of the children of fashion have been inoculated this year, all with success, as I did not chuse to have Archy inoculated in the winter season; but if the spring were some farther advanced, I purpose to have him inoculated as my own children were, which I hope you have no objection against, as I am soon to remove to Edinburgh, where it will be impossible to keep him from the natural infection, which may prove fatal, as it did to one of my grandchildren who was not inoculated. I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

MARGARET SCHAW.

Edinburgh, Feb. 21,

1754.

U

L E T T E R LXV.

Sir JOHN STEWART to Lady SCHAW.

MADAM,

I Received the most obliging letter you honour'd me with of 21st inst. by last post. The favours you have laid me under could not have been added to, so much as by the handsome manner they are done in; the concern you are pleas'd to express for preventing my dear boy being in danger of infection from the natural small-pox, is most obliging and kind.

And, Madam, as you have been pleas'd to take the trouble of my dear little Archy, I leave the means of his preservation entirely to your Ladyship's kindness and experience; so please order as to inoculation or not, as your unerring judgment shall direct, which I am sure needs not be put in mind to take care, that the pok be favorable, and the person it is taken from, of a natural healthy constitution.

I hope my affairs will soon take a more favorable turn, that I may be somewhat less sensibly hurt by the unnatural behaviour of dear Lady Jane's relations as well as mine; they have much to answer for, breaking the heart of the most meritorious
 Lady

Lady ever was borne ; and next neglecting to take proper care of all she has left ; for, as your Ladyship very justly observes, whatever might be alledged Lady Jane had disoblighd in, surely the infant had never disoblighd. But,

I beg to be allow'd to pay your Ladyship my respect in this way, whilst at a distance, as I shall fondly embrace all occasions to prove with what regard and high esteem, I have the honnor of being, Madame, your much oblighd, and most obedient humble servant,

JO. STEWART.

London, February 28,
1754.

If I may be allowed to truble your Ladyship to give my blessing to my dear little man ; I beg it may have addition and sanction of yours, to the many other favores your Ladyship does his dear mother's memory.

If I may take the liberty, after what I hav said, to wish, it is, that Dr. Dundas and Mr. Eccles may be at the consultation, when and how dear little Archie is to be inoculated : not to put your Ladyship to expence, they will leav that till I see them. But, Madame, allow me to remind your Ladyship, they know more of the boy's

constitution, thane phisitians, however able, who hav not had occasion to know so much of his constitution.

Pleas excuse this naturall anxiety, Madame, which, as a parent, you have felt.

L E T T E R LXVI.

Sir JOHN STEWART *to* Lady SCHAW.

MADAME,

AFTER being seemingly long out of my duty, pleas allow my offering your Ladyship the compliments of the season, with my best wishes and hearty thanks for the great and endless favores you continue to lay me under, by the motherly care, truble, and expence, you're pleas'd to bestow on my dear child, (your goodnes has as it were adopted.) My unwillingnes to truble your Ladyship with a repetition of bare and weak acknowledgments for favores so great and uncommon, no words can exprefs, to some might have appeared like ingratitude, or want of a just sens of so indulgent goodnes; but, Madam, your generous and noble way of thinking, that I hav so much experience of, perswads me, that your Ladyship puts a better and juster construction on my respectfull sylence; and I beg, Madame, you will pleas be assured, that as I have the most gratefull sens of your great goodnes and favores done me, I am, with great impatience, (to hav it in my power to offer something of a returne) endeavoring to get some money, that I may at
least

least replace the expence, though the favoure
and manner of doing it never can be suffi-
ciently acknowledged, much less repay'd.
I am, Madame, with the highest esteem,
your Ladyship's much obliged, and most
obedient, humble servant,

JO. STEWART.

Perth, January 1st, O. S.

1756.

If I might hope for the honnor of a few
lines, letting me know your Ladyship is
well, should be glad to know wher, and
with whom your tender care has boarded
dear little Archy.

L E T T E R LXVII.

Sir JOHN STEWART *to the Earl of*
MORTON.

MY LORD,

NEXT to my son's happiness, in having the blood of Douglas in his veins, and the justice his uncle the Duke has been pleased to do him, I reckon it his greatest good fortune, that his Grace has pointed out the Dutcheſs of Douglas, his Grace of Queensberry, your Lordship, and some other gentlemen of worth and knowledge to countenance and direct him, till he is of age to think and act for himself. I approve highly of this step, and shall never interfere or attempt obstructing a management so much abler to conduct him, than any weak efforts of mine. I never was acquainted with the modes of business. I am now far advanced in life, and have no further ambition than to end my days with decency and decorum, and to do justice to mankind, which, I thank God, the estate of Grandtully will enable me to do, if creditors will hearken to reason, and not harass me in a way that cannot serve themselves; when I have the honour to see your
Lordship,

Lordship, I will explain myself more fully;
mean while, I am, with the greatest re-
spect, my Lord, your Lordship's most obe-
dient and most humble servant,

JO. STEWART.

Edinburgh, July 27th,
1761.

T H E
D Y I N G D E C L A R A T I O N S
O F

Lady JANE DOUGLAS.

MRS. ELIZABETH HEWIT, spouse to Dr. Lachlan Maclean, late of Philadelphia, deposes, “ That she was often with Lady Jane about the time of her death, and that Lady Jane’s fondness for the defendant (Archibald Douglas, Esq;) continued to the last time the Deponent saw Lady Jane, which was a day or two before her death.”

Mrs. MAY M’CRABBIE, Milliner in Edinburgh, deposes, “ That she (Lady Jane) still insisted that the shock which she had received by the death of Sholto, and other griefs that she had met with, were so severe upon her, that she was perfectly persuaded she would never recover, but considered herself as a dying woman, and one who was soon to appear in the presence of

Almighty God, and to whom she must answer; she declared that these children, Archibald and Sholto, were born of her body."

Dr. MARTIN ECCLES, Physician in Edinburgh, deposes, " That the Deponent was oft with Lady Jane during her last illness, until her death; that Lady Jane's fondness for the Defendant continued to the last; that she expressed concern what should come of him, after she was gone."

Mrs. HELEN HEWIT deposes, " That Lady Jane was attended in her sickness at London by Mr. James Pringle Surgeon to the Guards, and when he left that place by Mr. Fordyce; that these gentlemen told the Deponent, that Lady Jane's disease was a broken heart; that Lady Jane returned to Scotland in August 1753; and died the 22d of November following; that, *about four hours before she died*, she ordered her son Archibald, the claimant, to be brought to her, when she laid her hand upon his head and said, " God bless you, my child; God
 " make you a good and an honest man, for
 " riches I despise. Take a sword in your
 " hand, and you may one day be as great
 " a hero as some of your predecessors."

T H E
D Y I N G D E C L A R A T I O N
O F
Sir JOHN STEWART.

Murthly, June 7th, 1764.

HAVING lately had some severe fits of the gout in my stomach, with my health in other respects much impaired; these, with my great age, going seventy-six, make it appear incumbent on me to make the following declaration, as aspersions have been thrown out by interested and most malicious people, as to the birth of Lady Jane Douglas her children, in order to rob the surviving child, Archibald, of his birth-right, by making his parents, Lady Jane and me, appear infamous, to make him illegitimate.

I Sir John Stewart of Grantully do solemnly declare, before God, that the fore-mentioned Lady Jane Douglas, my lawful spouse, did, in the year 1748, bring to the world my two sons, Archibald and Sholto,

and I firmly believe the children were mine, as I am sure they were hers.—Of the two sons, Archibald is the only in life now.—I make this declaration as stepping into eternity, before the witnesses after-mentioned, James Bisset minister of the gospel at Caputh, and James Hill minister at Gurdie, John Stewart of Dalgoos, Esq; justice of peace, Joseph Anderson tenant in Slogen-hole.

(Signed thus) JO. STEWART.

JAMES BISSET, *Witness.*

JAMES HILL, *Witness.*

JOS. ANDERSON, *Witness.*

JO. STEWART, *Witness.*

N. B. Sir John Stewart died a few days after signing the above declaration.

T H E
D Y I N G D E C L A R A T I O N
O F

Mrs. HELEN HEWIT.

MRS. Helen Hewit was first an attendant upon the late Lady Marchioness of Douglas, a Lady of distinguished piety. She was afterwards the faithful attendant of Lady Jane Douglas. The late Reverend Mr. William Harper, a clergyman of the Episcopal communion at Edinburgh, and a man whose memory is much respected, was well acquainted with Mrs. Hewit, and deposes, "That he does verily believe Mrs. Hewit to be a woman of truth and veracity, and a sincere conscientious woman, so far as he could observe."

Mrs. Hewit solemnly swore, in presence of a jury, "That upon the 10th of July, Lady Jane was delivered at Paris of two sons, and that the Deponent was present at their birth, and received them both into her lap, when they came into the world; that the

7 eldest,

eldest, whose name is Archibald, and is the present claimant, was a strong healthy child."

Being very old and infirm, Mrs. Hewit was long in a dying state. Finding she had made a trifling mistake in her deposition, so scrupulous was she, that she wrote to the Rev. Mr. Harper upon the subject. Her letter concludes with these serious and striking words; "I hope you, Sir, can ease my mind, as all I declared on my examination is true, but that mistake of the day of leaving La Brun's house, which I thought true when I said it. And this I declare to you, Sir, was I to step into eternity this moment. HELEN HEWIT."

Mrs. Hewit lingered a little longer upon the brink of eternity than was expected. She persisted to her last hour in affirming the truth of what she had sworn, as she was to appear before an Almighty Judge.

A C O O L A N D C A N D I D

I N Q U I R Y,

How far such DECLARATIONS should
weigh with the rational Part of
Mankind.

IT remains candidly to inquire what weight these Declarations should have with the rational part of mankind. I own they have very great weight with me. The near prospect of death is so awful to human nature, that not one in a thousand can view it without shrinking ; and innumerable instances may be brought of people, who, for a course of years, have bid defiance to the stings of conscience, and yet have bowed down in penitence at the approach of the king of terrors. We have been told that criminals who were undoubtedly guilty have yet gone to death protesting their innocence. Such instances have seldom occurred. But a comparison between abandoned criminals and the persons whose dying declarations we are now considering, as
at

at first view it must appear highly injurious, so when examined it will be found altogether unfair. Criminals go to death with health and firmness of constitution; Sir John, Lady Jane, and Mrs. Hewit, were enfeebled with age, and brought low by lingering illness. Criminals are hardened by a long course of wickedness, and, to use the strong language of scripture, *have their consciences seared with a hot iron*. Let the letters of Sir John and Lady Jane, and the oaths of the many great and worthy persons by whom they were regarded, be fairly considered, and then let the keenest partisan of a cruel party call them criminals if he can do so without any inward check. Mrs. Hewit's good character is proved by the oath of the late Mr. Harper, a clergyman of singular piety and solid understanding. Neither of the three were ever before accused, or even suspected, of any crime. The heavy charge now brought against them in a volume of circumstantial and *most suspicious* evidence, has been positively contradicted by all of them when stepping into eternity. Let us lay our hands upon our hearts, and judge as we would wish to be judged.

F I N I S.

Douglas, Jane

Letters of the right honourable Lady Jane Douglas with several other important pieces of private correspondence ; from all which the characters of that celebrated Lady and of her husband Sir John Stewart will appear in a light

London 1767

Epist. 217

urn:nbn:de:bvb:12-bsb10402641-5